FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-068
Monday
10 April 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-068 *10 April 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Apr 1
Gracnev Affirms Future of Russian, CIS Air Defense Forces *[SEGODNYA 8 Apr]* 1
CIS 'Mir' TV To Begin Daily Broadcasts by 'End of This Year' *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 7 Apr]* 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chernomyrdin, Talbott Discuss Clinton's Moscow Visit *[INTERFAX]* 3
Duma Speaker Rybkin Receives Talbott *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Perry Interviewed on U.S.-Russian Relations *[SEGODNYA 4 Apr]* 3
Military Paper: Perry 'Positively' Assessed Almaty Talks *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 Apr]* 5
U.S. Still Has 'Levers' Over Iran Reactor Deal *[TRUD 7 Apr]* 5
Iran's Velayati: Reactor Deal Based on International Law *[INTERFAX]* 6
Korzhakov Laments Lack of Arms Export Controls *[Paris LE FIGARO 7 Apr]* 6
Ambassador to Germany Rejects NATO Eastward Expansion *[Berlin DDP/ADN]* 7
French, Russian Cosmonauts To Fly to Mir Complex Jun '96 *[ITAR-TASS]* 7

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Further on Yeltsin's Vacation Activities 8
Return to Moscow Expected 'Next Week' *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
To Address Nation in 'Several Days' *[INTERFAX]* 8
Plans Visit to Nalchik *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Yabloko Movement's Yavlinskiy To Run for President *[INTERFAX]* 8
Bunich on Duma, Luzhkov, Other Issues *[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Mar]* 8

Media Issues

State Television Controversies Examined *[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Mar]* 11
Gryzunov Counters Claims Made by Limonov *[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 1 Mar]* 12

Military & Space Issues

Army Officers Dismissed for Refusal To Fight in Chechnya *[Moscow NTV]* 15
FSK Says Captured 'Dudayev Archives' Reveal Chechnya Corruption *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Moscow Says Chechen Military, Political Situation 'Unchanged' *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Top Secret Documents Stolen From Air Force Institute *[Moscow 2x2 TV]* 16
Official Plays Down Importance of Documents *[Moscow Radio]* 17
Progress M-27 Transport, Supply Carrier Launched *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Progress M-27 Mission, Parameters Detailed *[ITAR-TASS]* 17

Federal Assembly

Duma Wants To Consider 1990 Border Deal With U.S. *[INTERFAX]* 17
Duma Turns Down LDPR Proposal To Axe Yeltsin's Kiev Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Lipitskiy Interviewed on Budget, Elections *[SOVETSKAYA SIBIR 1 Apr]* 18
Russia's Choice, Stability To Support Government in Vote *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Duma Withdraws Vote of Confidence in Government From Agenda *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Duma Factions Voice 'Concern' With Privatization Plans *[INTERFAX]* 21

Duma Fails To Strip Mavrodi of Immunity *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Duma To Mull Bill on Forming Upper Chamber Without Election *[SEGODNYA 7 Apr]* 21
Duma Imposes Moratorium on Black Sea Fleet Reduction *[ITAR-TASS]* 22

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya 23
Elders in Samashki Reportedly Executed *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Russian Troops Attempt To Take Samashki *[Moscow Radio]* 23
Further on Effort To Control Samashki *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Russian Troops Enter Northern Samashki *[Moscow Radio]* 23
Federal Troops Complete Samashki Operation *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Samashki Residents Describe Assault *[AFP]* 24
Dudayev Controls 'Mainly' Mountainous Areas *[INTERFAX]* 25
Refugees Claim Mountain Villages Bombed *[AFP]* 25
Bamut Possibly Federal Troops' Next Target *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Federal Headquarters in Groznyy Attacked *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Dudayev Forces' Attacks in Groznyy Detailed *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Kremlin's Compromise With Luzhkov Viewed *[SEGODNYA 8 Apr]* 26
'First-Ever' TV Footage of Pechora Early Warning Station *[Moscow RTV]* 26
New Administrative Districts for Moscow Proposed *[IZVESTIYA 5 Apr]* 26
Stepashin Meets Press After Talks With Tatarstan KGB *[RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN 4 Apr]* 27
Shaymiyev Addresses Tatarstan's Legislature *[KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 4 Apr]* 28
Samara Oblast Officials View Anticrime Efforts *[SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA 23 Feb]* 31
Samara Oblast 1994 Socioeconomic Statistics Cited *[SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA 1 Mar]* 32
Samara Oblast 1994 Health Statistics Cited *[SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA 1 Mar]* 37
'Democratic Russia' Less Active in Novosibirsk Oblast *[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK 31 Mar]* . 37

Economic Issues

February Wages Show Living Standard 'Continues To Fall' *[TRUD 7 Apr]* 38
Government Decree on Rationalizing Customs Tariffs *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 Apr]* 39
Zhirinovskiy Letter Decries Use of Bonds *[DELOVOY MIR 28 Mar]* 39
Accidents, Strikes Blamed on 'Crisis in Coal Sector' *[TRUD 7 Apr]* 40
Planned Closure of Kuzbass Mines Viewed *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 4 Apr]* 41
Space Rocket Enterprise Said To Have Promising Future *[IZVESTIYA 5 Apr]* 42

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Foreign Minister To Visit Iran Despite No-Confidence Vote *[INTERFAX]* 44
Udovenko: Russia, Ukraine Must Seek Closer Cooperation *[INTERFAX]* 44
Commission Chairman on Russian Duma, Sevastopol, NPT *[INTERFAX]* 44
Defense Official Warns of Halt to Nuclear Shipments *[UNIAN]* 44
OSCE Official Meets Crimean Leadership *[UNIAR]* 45
Moscow, Kiev To Launch Joint Gas Export Venture *[UNIAN]* 45

National Affairs

Roundup of Press Reaction to Perry Visit 45
Moroz Reports on Supreme Council Presidium's Activities *[INTERFAX]* 46
Groups Propose Resolutions at Supreme Council Session *[UNIAN]* 46
Tsekov News Conference on Political Events *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 1 Apr]* 46
Crimean Parliament Appeals to Yeltsin, Council of Europe *[UNIAN]* 48
Decree on Election of Crimean Deputies *[KRYMSKAYA GAZETA 30 Mar]* 48
Crimean Law on Amending Law on Referenda *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 30 Mar]* 48
Republic Faction Deplores Crimea Events *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 30 Mar]* 49
Union in Support of Crimea Party Issues Statement on Recent Events
[KRYMSKAYA GAZETA 30 Mar] 49

Economic Issues

IMF Approves $1.5 Billion Credit After Budget Approval *[INTELNEWS]* 50
Officials React to IMF Credit *[INTELNEWS]* 51
Presidential Aides Comment on Kuchma Economic Report *[URYADOVYY KURYER 6 Apr]* 51
Shrinking Foreign Investment Said Caused by 'Instability' *[INFOBANK]* 52
Package of Bills To Liberalize Customs Rules Submitted *[INTELNEWS]* 52

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Lukashenka's Election Procedure Edict Seen as Antidemocratic *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 Apr]* 53
Hryb Says Nation 'Explicitly Against' Neighbors' NATO Role *[Minsk Radio]* 54
Hryb Visits Vilnius, Discusses Klaipeda Port *[Minsk Radio]* 54
Parliament To Discuss Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Scope of Cabinet of Ministers' Powers Detailed *[RESPUBLIKA 4 Apr]* 54
New Deputy Foreign Minister To Mind Security, Arms Control *[Minsk Radio]* 55
Minsk Suspends Implementation of Conventional Arms Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 56

Moldova

Reaction to Shumeyko Statement on Withdrawal of 14th Army *[INTERFAX]* 56
Dniester Leaders, 14th Army 'Shocked' by Shumeyko Statement *[INFOTAG]* 56
Russian-Ukrainian Talks Held on Army Hardware Pullout *[BASAPRESS]* 57
Foreign Minister Popov on Cooperation With OSCE *[INTERFAX]* 57
Protesting Students Demand Government's Resignation *[INFOTAG]* 57
Strike Committee Concerned About Drop in Number of Strikers *[INFOTAG]* 58

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Almaty Protests Tajik Opposition Attack on Peacekeepers *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Edict on Forming Customs Committee *[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 4 Apr]* 59
Resolution on National Referendum *[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Apr]* 59

Tajikistan

Opposition Launches Assault From Tajik-Afghan Border Region 60
Russian Commander Describes 'Provocation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Government Protests to Afghan Authorities *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
'More Than 10' Border Guards Killed *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Further on Border Guard Casualties *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
'Militants' Continue Shelling *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Border Situation 'Extremely Tense' *[Moscow Radio]* 61
Opposition Still Shelling Dashti-Yazgulem *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Fighting Continues 'Throughout Sunday' *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Pamirs Could Become 'New Pocket of Tension' *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Russian Troops in 'Heavy Fighting' *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
Government Statement Condemns Attack *[KHOVAR]* 63
President Urges UNSC Talks on Border Attacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Rakhmanov Appeals to Yeltsin for Assistance *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Commander Says Border 'Now Quiet' *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Russian Helicopters Attack Border Insurgents *[ITAR-TASS]* 64

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Azerbaijani Army Units Fire on Border Position *[Yerevan Radio]* 66
Shelling of Border Settlements Continues *[SNARK]* 66
NDU Rally Opposes New Constitution *[SNARK]* 66

Azerbaijan

Parliament Confirms Decree Extending State of Emergency *[TURAN]* 66
Parliament's Call for Crackdown on Opposition Viewed *[SEGODNYA 7 Apr]* 66
APF Congress Postponed Due to State of Emergency *[TURAN]* 67
SOCAR Chief Says Financing of Consortium Share Settled *[TURAN]* 67
Iran Reportedly Cut Out of Oil Deal *[AFP]* 67
Iran Not 'Officially Informed' of Cancellation *[AFP]* 68
Turkish Prime Minister To Visit 12 Apr *[TURAN]* 68
Head of Kazakh Region Police Department Arrested *[TURAN]* 68

Georgia

Russian Troops' Tbilisi Headquarters Attacked *[INTERFAX]* 68
Government Condemns Attack on Russian Envoy's Residence *[Tbilisi Radio]* 69
Shevardnadze Orders 'Emergency' Protection Measures *[Tbilisi Radio]* 69
Bomb Blast Called 'Brazen Provocation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 69
Group Claims Responsibility for Attacks *[Russian TV]* 70
Composition of Defense Ministry Collegium Confirmed *[Tbilisi Radio]* 70
Trading of Privatization Vouchers Under Way *[Tbilisi Radio]* 70

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Bill To Suspend State Property Transactions Submitted *[BNS]* 71
Enimex President Says Information on Plane 'Incorrect' *[BNS]* 71

Latvia

Ulmanis Decides To Attend VE Ceremony in London *[BNS]* 71
Birkavs Addresses Saeima on Foreign Policy Trends *[Riga Radio]* 72
First Quarter Budget Deficit Reaches 24.3 Million Lats *[BNS]* 72
Bank Official Deems Lat Fully Convertible *[BNS]* 72
Kurdish Refugees Transferred to Olaine Prison Building *[ITAR-TASS]* 72

Lithuania

Belarusian Speaker Visits, Views NATO Expansion *[ELTA]* 73
First Quarter Inflation Rate Reported *[ELTA]* 73
Plan for Oil Drilling in Disputed Areas Protested *[BNS]* 73

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Apr

LD0804083295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0525 GMT 8 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Under the splash "State Duma adopts new bill on military conscription", the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper front-pages a report that the lower house of the Russian parliament adopted a bill "helping to bring the numerical strength of Russian armed forces to 80-85 per cent".

"Public Russian Television is in danger" exclaims the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper, commenting on a bill recently adopted by the lower house "on a special order of privatising state television organisations". "The bill adopted by the Duma is legally incorrect, since ort (eds: Russian abbreviation for Public Russian Television) is already operating and uses the first frequency channel under the president's decree," the daily stresses.

State Duma member Igor Yakovenko, contributing a feature to the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper under the title "A Structure of Lies", expresses another opinion. Yakovenko, a member of the Yabloko parliamentary group, claims that "an entity called Public Russian Television is not public at all.

"What was set up in our country under the title ORT is a hybrid of state and commercial television and is not public in any way," he stresses. In Yakovenko's opinion, this structure, called public television, is based on lies and is called upon to mould conscience of Russian people to suit some forces.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper tries to appraise the importance for russia of the coming celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory won by the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War, 1941- 1945. The daily writes that many heads of state will come to us on the occasion of this event.

"Moscow saw something of this kind the last time in May 1896 when Emperor Nicholas II was enthroned at the Assumption Cathedral in the Kremlin. The celebration of the V-Day on May 9, 1995 will evidently eclipse the age-old festivities," the newspaper stresses.

Chairman of the Russian Central Electoral Commission gave an interview to the TRUD newspaper which asks him about the future general elections. "I'm sure the elections will be held at a fixed date, and they will be held on the basis of a law and not a presidential decree. Although the next two months will tax much effort to hammer out the law," he said.

However, in Ryabov's opinion, "there will be no free and democratic elections in our country. Because we have no voters. People who are subjects of the election law, cannot implement it to the full, since it is difficult for them to conceive an idea in of who is who in our political realities."

The PRAVDA newspaper carries an article by Chuvashia President Nikolay Fedorov. This Russian prominent politician ponders over ways for the development of "one of the poorest Russian republics".

"We are living through a very difficult, transitory and abnormal time," he says. "It became extremely abnormal due to absence of a policy of transitory period. A question pops up: how far have we moved?

"Since social and moral price for the reform period and the post-reform period as well as reforms themselves is so great and losses are so global that progress itself is devalued according to philosophical laws," the president concludes.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper splashed a sensation today. It reports that "biochemist Vorobyeva entered the cage and tamed aids". The daily writes that a report was made at the recent seminar "social and medical problems of HIV-Aids" in Petrozavodsk that Vorobyova working at the virology institute has developed "a unique preparation which is 'a highly efficient immunomodulator', capable of restoring DNC of a cell distorted by the virus. This means, in plain English, a 100 percent cure of Aids".

Grachev Affirms Future of Russian, CIS Air Defense Forces

MK0804104895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 2

[Yuriy Golotyuk report in the "Army" column: "The Air Defense Forces 'Existed, Exist, and Will Continue To Exist.' Yesterday the Defense Minister Signed an Order Increasing Army Salaries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev met with the personnel of the Air Defense Forces Main Command. Grachev congratulated his subordinates on their approaching professional holiday, Air Defense Forces Day, which is celebrated on the second weekend of April. The head of the military department said that the Air Defense Forces "existed, exist, and will continue to exist" (it will be recalled that in recent years, during the discussion of reform in the Russian Army, the need to maintain the air defense forces as a separate branch of the Armed Forces has been questioned more than once).

Yesterday the minister not only mollified Air Defense men over the future of their forces, but also stressed that the Air Defense Forces are becoming the first branch of the Armed Forces to be a common one for all the CIS countries' armies. The interstate military structure will be headed by Air Force Colonel General Viktor Prudnikov, commander in chief of the Russian Air Defense Forces. A corresponding agreement was reached at a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

meeting in Almaty, and the troops are already going ahead with its implementation: In May, the first exercises are to be held within the framework of the single air defense system of the Commonwealth states.

In the course of the meeting at the Air Defense Forces Main Command, Grachev also announced another piece of good news for the army: Yesterday he signed an order providing for a 30-percent increase in military servicemen's salaries as of April.

CIS 'Mir' TV To Begin Daily Broadcasts by 'End of This Year'

MM1004084195 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed report from the RT-Commonwealth section: "'Mir' to Every Household"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk—Participants in the session of the Interstate Coordinating Council of the "Mir" Interstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Company held in Minsk ratified a blueprint for the organization of daily broadcasting by the radio and television channels of the "Mir" Interstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

In the words of Russian Federation Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, who was elected chairman of this council, it is a key document for the company's development. The session also ratified the new wording of the "Mir" Interstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Company's charter and a plan for implementing a project for a "Mir" multifunctional satellite system, approved a draft agreement on this question which will be submitted to the Council of CIS Heads of Government this May, ratified the protocol to the Agreement on International Law Guarantees Undertaken by the "Mir" Interstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and discussed the question of the possibility of collaboration between the "Mir" Interstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Company and UNESCO and other international and interstate organizations.

The transition to daily broadcasting will apparently take place at the end of this year; this is expected to involve an entire channel broadcasting live to the founding states. The chairman of the "Mir" Interstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Company noted that the additional expenditure required for the satellite system will come to tens of millions of dollars. It is proposed to expand the financial possibilities of the "Mir" Interstate Television and Radio Broadcasting Company through contributions from the founding states, the company's financial activities, the tax and customs privileges which the founders' governments are guaranteeing, and direct investments. It is planned to approve the new satellite broadcasting system at the end of June in Belarus.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Chernomyrdin, Talbott Discuss Clinton's Moscow Visit

LD0704143195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW. April 7 (Interfax)—On Friday in Moscow, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Strobe Talbott, deputy of the US State Secretary, discussed issues relating to the upcoming visit of US President Bill Clinton to Moscow behind closed doors. In May Clinton will participate in festivities devoted to the 50th anniversary of Victory Day in Moscow.

The government press service reported to Interfax that in the course of a half-hour conversation the officials also touched upon different aspects of Russian-US relations in the political and economic fields, and key international problems.

Chernomyrdin and Talbott also discussed the preparation of the next sitting of the Russian-US commission on economic, scientific and technological cooperation scheduled for this summer.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minster Georgiy Mamedov, Chernomyrdin's aide on foreign issues Mikhail Tarasov and US Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering participated in the talks.

Duma Speaker Rybkin Receives Talbott

LD0704194095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Deputy U.S. Secretary of State Strobe Talbott was received by Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin today to discuss the Russian-U.S. summit scheduled for May 1995.

The interlocutors focused on topical aspects of bilateral relations and stressed solutions must be found in a profound political dialogue. The speaker noted that Russia stands for equal business-like partnership with the United States.

Speaking of NATO policy and its relations with the Russian Federation, Rybkin stressed that Russia "cannot be pushed aside or isolated." In his turn, Talbott cited President Clinton as repeatedly saying that Europe must be united and flourishing which is impossible to achieve without Russian participation in the integration process.

The diplomat reaffirmed the U.S. intention to support the development of democracy in Russia. In his opinion, the State Duma is "the key instrument that expresses the will of the people," reports the Duma press service.

Perry Interviewed on U.S.-Russian Relations

95UM0378A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 3

[Report on "exclusive" interview with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry by Pavel Felgengauer; place and date not given: "Russian-American Relations on the Threshold of New Tests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The differences between Moscow and Washington over the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran will, it seems, be localized. Of course, the Republicans in Congress could still attempt to cut off aid to Russia, but the Clinton administration will resist this, rightly pointing to the fact that assistance in a reduction in weapons of mass destruction and in the conversion of Russian defense industry is in keeping with the interests of the United States itself.

The assistance fund allocated by Congress has reached $1.3 billion (more than $400 million is allocated for the third fiscal year). Approximately $350 million have been spent thus far all told. But no more than $40 million, according to William Perry, have fetched up in Russia proper. The main funds are being spent directly in the United States—contracts are being concluded there for the development and manufacture of "supercontainers," say, for the transportation of the Russian warheads and other equipment which will subsequently be presented to Russia. So a cutback in aid would affect the American military-industrial complex economically more than its Russian counterpart.

Nor is the Pentagon all that excited about the Chechnya problem—a good working relationship with the Russian Ministry of Defense and Minister Pavel Grachev himself personally are more important. Yesterday William Perry merely "counseled" a cease-fire and the invitation of OSCE observers as soon as possible.

At the same time, on the other hand, contradictions with the West on the issue of total compliance with the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, which Moscow is now linking with the problem of the expansion of NATO membership, are intensifying.

Many people in Moscow believe that NATO's expansion eastward would jeopardize the system of heavy weapons quotas within the framework of the CFE Treaty inasmuch as it was calculated on the basis of a balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. The affiliation to NATO of the East European countries (together with their heavy arms) would upset any balance of forces on the continent.

Russian representatives at the negotiations with the West have already, apparently, according to Mr. Perry, set as a condition of compliance with the CFE flank quota commitments the nonexpansion of NATO. "But we Americans are saying: Comply with the flank limitations by November 1995, and then we will discuss possible changes. The CFE Treaty is a good treaty, and we need to try to preserve it, that is, comply with it to the letter," the secretary said. William Perry believes that the expansion of NATO "is still only possible in the distant future. If and when this happens, this will be the time for a reconsideration of the CFE Treaty." Meanwhile Russia should, according to the American defense secretary, "not only accede to the Partnership for Peace program but also take the lead in it."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

But such proposals are evoking no particular enthusiasm in Moscow. Yesterday General Grachev confirmed that in response to an expansion of NATO Russia would refuse to comply with the CFE Treaty. The present situation in the Caucasus (it is contemplated deploying the 58th Army in Chechnya, say) simply does not allow Russia to subscribe to the CFE flank limitations. Particularly if local and "newly arrived" armored equipment, of both the Ministry of Defense and the MVD and the border troops, is considered. On top of that, the heavy weapons of the Group of Forces in the Transcaucasus are just about equal all told to the entire flank quota allocated for both the Caucasus up to Voronezh Oblast and for the Leningrad District, and withdrawing them before November from the Turkish border is an impossibility in purely physical terms.

During the negotiations in Moscow Pavel Grachev proposed the exclusion from the flank limitations of the equipment located in the area of the conflict in Chechnya. Earlier Russia had proposed the exclusion of the equipment of the peacekeepers in Abkhazia. It is obvious that neither the United States nor, even less, Turkey would agree with such an interpretation, and the consensus of all the participants is needed for revisions to the CFE Treaty. A really serious diplomatic conflict beyond comparison with the present altercation over Iran is expected by November, it would seem.

There are other grounds for disagreements also, for that matter. Many Russian politicians consider START II a treaty that is unsuccessful, unbalanced, and harmful for Russia. Following compliance with the terms of START II in full (the year 2003), the United States will have an arsenal of 3,500 warheads. But it could, if it so desires, in a short space of time (several weeks) double its strategic potential to 7,000, bringing back from the stores and redeploying the warheads on the existing delivery systems, whereas Russia would have nothing with which to respond to this—the principal ground-based delivery system (the Topol missile) can carry only one warhead, and the sea- and ground-based components of the Russian nuclear triad might not even make it to the year 2003 with the present funding.

Some specialists believe that Russia should keep the SS-18 and SS-24 (R-36M and RT-23) heavy multiple-warhead strategic missiles until the full expiration of their possible service life (to the year 2010 approximately) in order to have opportunities similar to those of the Americans for the retro-deployment of forces in the event of a serious external danger. The present Duma will hardly ratify the START II Treaty, in any event. Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma Foreign Policy Committee (former ambassador in Washington), declared recently that his committee did not intend to present START II for ratification in the very near future.

But William Perry believes that "such opinions are a good example of the thinking of the times of the cold war, when everyone was figuring out meticulously which side had won in this treaty or the other and how much." In his opinion, START II is beneficial for Russia and is beneficial for the United States and for all the rest of mankind.

Yesterday William Perry met with Duma deputies and tried to persuade them to ratify START II: "To reject START II would be a tragic mistake."

But the Americans' aspiration to disarmament does not as yet go any further than START II. The ideas of further accelerated disarmament, the so-called START III, which would enable Russia to "jump" the none-too-advantageous START II and sharply reduce the number of multiple-warhead American delivery systems, evokes no enthusiasm in the Pentagon, obviously. The officially declared U.S. goal is to preserve "sufficient" nuclear deterrence potential.

Even less acceptable to Washington are the calls for general and complete disarmament being heard once again, as in the good old days, from the Kremlin. William Perry believes that "we should first comply fully with START I and then START II and only then (in the 21st century) think about what follows."

Aside from nuclear deterrence, another foundation ("main priority") of the American military department remains antimissile (ABM) defenses, and William Perry himself is an ardent supporter of such arms, what is more. The United States plans to complete the development and to deploy in the coming years a "tactical" ABM system (theater defense—TMD) and also to continue the funding of R&D on the program for the creation of a "national" ABM system (NMD) capable of covering the entire territory of the United States against a ballistic attack.

Russia believes that such operations are contrary to the 1972 ABM Treaty, which is the basis of all subsequent agreements in the nuclear sphere. For this reason William Perry yesterday in Moscow "explained to Russian officials the importance of ABM defense for the United States." He believes that the actions and intentions of the United States are being misinterpreted. In his opinion, TMD does not contradict the ABM Treaty, although "the text of the treaty is not entirely clear."

William Perry acknowledged that "the United States is moving in the direction of the creation of NMD, and it will, possibly, be deployed at the start of the next century." But the purpose of NMD will be different from that of the Star Wars program. The NMD program is to defend against a "limited" nuclear strike, and for this reason it is not aimed against Russia and does not conflict with the ABM Treaty. William Perry hopes that Russia will itself one day take up the creation of its own ABM defenses and will therefore look with favor on the American plans, although it is clear to everyone, of course, that Russia will have no money for such programs in the foreseeable future.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yesterday William Perry held consultations on ABM defenses with Andrey Kozyrev and Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff. Before the start of the negotiations, the participants in the consultations on the Russian side very much doubted that the American secretary of defense would succeed in changing their minds.

Commenting on the initial failures of Russian troops in the Chechen campaign, William Perry did not fail to brag that "although they have been cut back considerably in recent years, America's armed forces have preserved their combat capability, whereas the Russian Army has preserved its former structure, but not its combat capability." He did observe, it is true, that "yours consists of draft personnel, ours, volunteer, and with this it is easier to achieve high combat readiness." William Perry believes that "Russia is perfectly capable of coping with the problem of combat capability and that the United States and the whole of the rest of the world have an interest in a strong and stable Russia." The U.S. defense secretary did not mention, though, that the military budget in the United States is 10 times greater than in Russia.

"Some people in Russia believe that the assistance of the United States in the field of conversion is aimed at weakening Russia's defense potential even more. They are mistaken—our efforts are geared merely to the use of defense technology for peaceful purposes," William Perry assured his audience. He also observed that he understands the concern of the Russian military-industrial complex at possible supplies of American weapons, F-16 aircraft included, to East European countries, but "such supplies will hardly happen any time soon or to such a large extent (they will be costly)."

William Perry brought along with him to Moscow Miss Ruth Harkin, president of the OPIC—a private investment organization, to which the U.S. Congress has allocated $500 million for the encouragement of investments in the conversion of the Russian military-industrial complex. The OPIC should attract multi-million-dollar private investments in Russia, guaranteeing the investors' risk here. William Perry believes that this is "only the start." He is, generally, a born optimist when it comes to the future of our and the transatlantic defense industry. The Pentagon truly has no need of an unarmed and enfeebled Russia—Congress could then "slash" the military budget ruthlessly.

Military Paper: Perry 'Positively' Assessed Almaty Talks

MM0704110995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin under "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and Telegraph Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "American Launch, Kazakhstani Pennant"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty—U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has spoken positively about his talks with Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Defense Minister Army General Sagadat Nurmagambetov during his visit to the republic 4-5 April.

According to him, military problems during the talks included questions of dismantling nuclear missiles, sending U.S. military advisers to Kazakhstan, holding joint exercises, and strengthening the coast guard on Kazakhstan's Caspian Sea coast. It was learned that Kazakhstan is to receive six military launches from the United States as aid.

U.S. Still Has 'Levers' Over Iran Reactor Deal

MM1004082295 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 7

[Article by Vissarion Sisnev: "Will Clinton Settle Things Between Us?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—U.S. President Clinton and British Prime Minister Major have had talks in Washington. They will both be attending the Victory Day celebrations in Moscow. They are both loath to attend even a veterans' parade, let alone a military parade, and appear on the Mausoleum platform where Soviet leaders, from Stalin to Gorbachev, have appeared in the past. Judging by what information journalists have, behind-the-scenes talks are going on about building a special platform either alongside the Mausoleum or opposite it for foreign VIP's. But that is the simplest of the problems about which Washington and London have objections.

And we are not even talking about the war in Chechnya, to which the West—at any rate, for the duration of the celebrations—may turn a blind eye, although Washington administration representatives, in their official speeches, keep on repeating to this day the same old idea: A political solution to the Chechen problem must be found immediately, and the hostilities, in which it is primarily the civilian population that is suffering, must be stopped. I repeat: This problem is being put on the back burner, not only because it really is a great day for everyone, but also because the presence of the leaders of the world powers in Moscow should stress their desire to support the democratic process in Russia. This is made very clear.

Another problem has arisen, which puts in the shade the noisy spat between Washington and London about the president of Ireland's Sinn Fein party (the British see it as a front for terrorists) being allowed to go the United States and collect money there for party needs.

Obviously, the two countries have thousands of unbreakable links and the spat could not develop into a breakup anyway. Mutual understanding was restored through the common reaction to the Russian government's willingness to provide Iran with two nuclear reactors, which, it is believed here and in London, would enable a "terrorist country" to acquire nuclear weapons—if not immediately, then in the pretty near future. As is known, U.S.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Defense Secretary William Perry, who has just been to Moscow, failed to dissuade his Russian colleagues.

It is impossible to imagine a more obvious case of showing a red rag to a bull. The United States has a whole list of "terrorist countries," in which Iran has a special place: It is called the "main source of terrorism in the world." Very important and well- informed people in Washington are sure that the final defeat of Iraq in the "Desert Storm" operation was prevented not by President Bush's timidity at all—it was prevented by his wish to preserve the Baghdad regime as a kind of counterweight in the region to bellicose Islamic fundamentalism. The Russian-Iranian talks on reactors were taking place at a time when U.S. leaders and legislators had begun the process of further tightening the economic screws on Tehran.

U.S. oil companies have been prohibited from importing Iranian petroleum products into the Untied States, nor do they have the right to trade in them in other markers (this was bringing in more than $4 billion per year for the Tehran regime). Secretary of State Christopher has long been calling for stiffer sanctions against Iran—so that the United States would have the moral right to demand the same of its own allies. Now Clinton has announced that he intends to do just that. But the Republicans in Congress went even further: They are planning to pass an act whereby U.S. markets would be closed to any firm dealing with the Iranians. People in the know say that the President will back this initiative as soon as he finds the right formula, whereby the "honor" of passing such an act would not go entirely to the rival party.

In the light of all this it is not surprising that at a joint Clinton-Major press conference in Washington attention was focused on what is going on between Moscow and Tehran, while the recent British-American internecine strife was a side issue. There were, of course, pronouncements and questions on other issues, but "nuclear technology for Iran" was undoubtedly the dominant issue, because, as Clinton put it, he does "not want to bequeath to a future president a nuclear program in Iran which he will have to try to eliminate." Major spoke in the same vein. Both leaders, as THE WASHINGTON TIMES stressed, stated that "Russia must break the contract with Iran which supplies it with nuclear technology."

But the most curious thing is that despite the failure of Perry's mission to Russia Clinton continues to insist that the chapter is not yet closed: "Let us not anticipate events," the president urged, noting that the United States "still has some levers."

In this context "levers" can mean only one thing: pressure. Some observers see this as a warning. The agreement on Clinton's going to the celebrations in Moscow is still up in the air, apparently, and the firm intention to prevent a "terrorist country" from getting nuclear technology could cool the desire to support Yeltsin and his team. How serious these feelings in the White House are, if they actually exist, we will soon discover.

Iran's Velayati: Reactor Deal Based on International Law

LD0904171395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 9 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, April 9 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said that "the project of Russian nuclear reactors sale to Iran is fully based on international law."

"We do not think that there are any legal obstacles against supplies to Iran of nuclear reactors for nuclear power stations," he told Interfax-Ukraine in Tehran on Sunday.

The minister said that "Iran had joined the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty and will comply with it." "We fully obey all international laws in the sphere of nuclear energy," he said.

According to Turkmen Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov, Ashgabat believes that "the Iranian-Russian deal on supplies of reactors corresponds to all legal norms and demands of the International Atomic Energy Agency." "No one should dictate his will to Iran and Russia," he told Interfax-Ukraine on April 9. "We have no grounds not to trust to the sincerity of the Iranians, who are tackling this problem within the framework of the international laws," said the minister.

Korzhakov Laments Lack of Arms Export Controls

BR0704134195 Paris LE FIGARO in French 7 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Irina de Chikoff: "Russia: Arms Sales Out of Control"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—In a confidential report to Boris Yeltsin—a copy of which has been obtained by LE FIGARO—General Korzhakov, head of presidential security, condemns the absence of rules in the export of Russian arms. "An international scandal is brewing" the man they have nicknamed the president's Rasputin because of his growing hold over Yeltsin's power base writes. The indictment is overwhelming, especially for the Defense Ministry which General Korzhakov challenges openly.

The report was commissioned specially by the president. It reveals that a public military equipment exporter, Volentech, sold seven T72 tanks to Croatia in October 1992, despite the international embargo. Originally these tanks were destined for Bolivia but they never arrived. According to General Korzhakov, the deal was arranged through an Austrian intermediary company. In the fall of 1993 the same company tried to deliver artillery and 2,000 machine guns plus ammunition to the former Yugoslavia. It was the foreign intelligence services which stopped the delivery from going ahead. Korzhakov

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stresses: "Volentech, for some reason, is protected by the Defense Ministry and is dependent on it."

If we are to believe the head of presidential security, the arms trade is rife across the board. He quotes the example of the latest T80 tank and a batch of Toungouz rocket launchers which Volentech is said to have sold the British secret services. He claims that companies in the aeronautics industry have tried to export models of the RD33 engine and R739 air-to-air missiles to South Africa, in violation of the law and under cover of "the protection of senior government officials."

Another company, Goskomoboronprom, is said to have signed an agreement with China and South Korea without obtaining the prior authorization of the inter-ministerial committee on military cooperation. The confidential document states: "These are just a few examples of arms trafficking. Everyone has decided to export military equipment irrespective of their skill or experience. In 1992-1993 some 12 companies managed, through government lobbying, to obtain authorization to sell military hardware. This trade is no longer controlled by the state."

Arms export licenses had been granted to finance the reconversion of the military-industrial complex. General Korzhakov stated: "This project has been diverted... The abundance of dodgy Russian intermediaries all around the world have forged Russia a reputation for being an unreliable partner in arms trading. Foreign competitors and their secret services are taking advantage of the inefficiency of our military cooperation."

The seven-page report from presidential security describes the "shady" world of approved military hardware exporters and their subcontractors: Fake documents, faked audits, the failure to respect national and international legislation, contracts that have been bypassed, and illegal agreements signed by umbrella companies.

This explosive report concludes: "We have to create a national authority answerable to the presidency which will be responsible for strategic planning in military cooperation." Perhaps General Korzhakov has someone in mind to head this authority?

Ambassador to Germany Rejects NATO Eastward Expansion

LD0904132195 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 1200 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Berlin (DDP/ADN)—Russia's Ambassador in Bonn Vladislav Terekhov has affirmed his country's negative attitude toward NATO's eastward expansion. In an interview with N-TV Television, he says today that the Russian public views that expansion as a threat. Furthermore, such an expansion would violate the spirit of the Two-Plus-Four Treaty.

Moscow's idea is to set up a new security architecture together with its Western partners. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is best suited as a discussion forum, since all parties concerned are members of it. Unilateral steps by NATO can "only hamper that discussion."

French, Russian Cosmonauts To Fly to Mir Complex Jun '96

LD0904164795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—A flight of one French cosmonaut and two Russian ones aboard a Soyuz-TM spaceship to the orbital complex Mir is scheduled for June 1996. The flight will cost the French space agency (CNES) 13.7 million U.S. dollars.

Frenchmen contenders for the flight—Claudie Andre-Deshays and Leopold Eyharts—have been undergoing training at the Yuriy Gagarin cosmonauts training centre for three months. Claudie Andre- Deshays, 37, Dr. of Sc. (medicine) stands better chances to take part in the flight. She was a back-up pilot of Jean-Pierre Haignere who worked aboard the Mir station in summer 1993.

Under an earlier concluded contract between CNES and the space rocket company Energiya, a French cosmonaut is to make a 16-day flight under the Cassiopeia programme in June 1996. Russian-French cooperation in manned space flights is very active—this will be a fifth joint flight.

Apart from the cost of the contract, the CNES assigned 100 million francs (18.5 million U.S. dollars) to a number of French firms for the designing and manufacture of equipment for experiments under the Cassiopeia programme. Scientific instrumentation with an aggregate mass of 300 kg is to be supplied at the end of this year for subsequent delivery to the Mir station by means to a progress spacecraft.

At the end of this year French cosmonauts are to complete the general space training course and are to begin training as members of crews together with their Russian counterparts Gennadiy Manakov, Sergey Treshchyov, Sergey Krichevskiy, and Aleksandr Kaleriy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Political Issues

Further on Yeltsin's Vacation Activities

Return to Moscow Expected 'Next Week'

LD0704154795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 Tass—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will return to Moscow from vacation late next week, a well-informed Kremlin source told ITAR-TASS.

Prolongation of the two-week vacation that was planned from March 27 through April 9 may be caused by a minor cold caught by the president in Kislovodsk, according to ITAR-TASS Sochi correspondent Irina Shchegoleva. This is also the reason for Yeltsin's postponed trip to Nalchik and his meeting with north Caucasian leaders, said the sources. The meeting will not be held before Monday, April 10, Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev told ITAR-TASS today.

Health of Boris Yeltsin is now normal. He is working with documents and takes solar and air baths.

To Address Nation in 'Several Days'

LD0704171795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Yeltsin, vacationing on the Black Sea coast, where he came from Kislovodsk, has examined a host of documents on various aspects of state development. A number of these documents will be published soon, his press secretary Sergey Medvedev reported to Interfax on Friday.

Meanwhile, as circles close to the head of state have revealed to Interfax, the president plans to address his fellow countrymen in several days and focus on the key problems in the life of the country and society. However, the form of this address has not been finally chosen.

According to Medvedev, the president has also been working on major international issues. He has been keen closely following Russian-Ukrainian relations and the situation in Crimea.

To Medvedev's knowledge, Yeltsin "will hardly" visit Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria's capital, although a trip there, made preliminary part of the president's spring holiday itinerary, "has not been taken off the agenda."

Nor does Boris Yeltsin plans to meet with Viktor Chernomyrdin and leaders of separate departments in Sochi this week, Medvedev said.

Plans Visit to Nalchik

LD1004074195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0733 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi April 10 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin uses his spring vacation in the Black Sea spa of Sochi to play his favourite game of tennis and is planning to hunt in the local mountains Monday, TASS learned from unofficial sources.

On Tuesday the president is planning a trip to Nalchik, the capital of the Caucasian republic of Kabardino-Balkaria. He is expected to fly there from the airport in Sochi at 11.00 hours Moscow time (07.00 GMT), well-informed sources told TASS.

Yabloko Movement's Yavlinskiy To Run for President

LD0704210495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YAROSLAVL, April 7 (Interfax)—The leader of the Yabloko movement, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, has confirmed, at the constituent conference of his movement's regional branch, his intention to run for the post of Russia's president in the next elections.

According to Yavlinskiy, the present geopolitical situation is the most unfavorable for Russia since the end of World War II.

"I am concerned about the guarding of the borders and the situation in the south, southeast, on the border with Iran, Iraq and China," he said. "If we come to power, we will raise the issue of setting realistic borders," he added.

According to Yavlinskiy, "the Moslem issue seems to be the most aggravated" today, notably following the Chechnya conflict. It will deteriorate further if the political conflict turns into a religious one and affects Dagestan and Ingushetia, he warned.

The conference was attended by about one hundred people, about 8-10 times fewer than at the earlier meeting with leader of the Communist Party of Russia, Gennadiy Zyuganov.

Bunich on Duma, Luzhkov, Other Issues

954F1869A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 12, Mar 95 p 3

[Interview with Pavel Bunich, president of the Union of Lessees and Entrepreneurs and State Duma deputy, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Pavel Bunich: The Past and the Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Pavel Bunich is among the politicians with recognizable names. As an economist, he enjoyed respect long before perestroyka. As a politician, he became a part of the top political elite immediately**

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

following the elections of people's deputies of the USSR. As a businessmen, he has since 1990 been president of the Union of Lessees and Entrepreneurs, initially of the USSR, then of Russia. He is currently a deputy of the State Duma.

His analysis of what is happening today with the Duma, the country, with all of us is at times subjective, perhaps, but it is the analysis of an erudite individual.

Rustling of the Duma Cockroaches

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] The State Duma seems to many people ridiculous and absurd, a kind of theater, in which provincial actors seek celebrity. You are a deputy of the Duma. What do you think, what kind of place is it?

[Bunich] The Duma today has become unglued to the point of utter hooliganism, which was not the case even in the former Supreme Soviet. A person may stand up in the Duma, for example, and say: "How long will we continue to see here curly-heads like Yavlinskiy?" Or "How long will we continue to see here people with names like Gerber?" And he is not ashamed!

The Duma is altogether not intellectual in the sense that this requires education, breeding, and depth of knowledge. But it is smart in its egotistical grasp. It has guile, demagogy, and quick- thinking. High responsiveness. This truly is a good machine for buffing up political images.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] And what do the recent evolutions of this "machine"—the formation of new groups, the flights of deputies from one faction to another, all these maneuvers, which are incomprehensible to the uninitiated, generally—signify in this case?

[Bunich] All in any way visible politicians have already occupied their political niches. They feel at ease, they have no need to bustle about in order to become noticeable.

But there is also a great impersonal mass of deputies who are as yet utterly undistinguished—partially because they have been too much preoccupied with themselves, their everyday life, the establishment of connections, the opening of their firms, and so forth. This is the secondary grade, which has understood that unless it somehow stands out now, it will simply sink into the political residue—beyond the party slates even. And it has become frightened.

The president's office, which all of a sudden recognized that the president cannot, apparently, rely on a single faction, except, perhaps, Zhirinovskiy's, availed itself of this. It had urgent need of a support group. And it began to create one, promising positions to some in exchange for support, to others, money for the coming elections.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] What do they want positions for? It is illogical: They want, as you say, to remain deputies....

[Bunich] The one does not contradict the other. Elections are like this: You either get elected or you do not. A deputy minister, for example, may be appointed right now. Just about the most widespread deputy's dream in the Duma is to hand in his badge, but to acquire office. The bureaucracy will always be there....

But the new pro-president faction—Stability—which is now being hurriedly formed in the Duma is an infirm phenomenon. Deputies have entered it with "one foot," and each is thinking for himself how to jump off and gallop away in good time.

Their task is to postpone the presidential elections. But this cannot be done point-blank. It will be necessary, evidently, to insist on an extension of the term of this Duma also.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] What might the reasoning behind a postponement of the Duma elections be?

[Bunich] The ideology here is this. Eight months prior to the elections the deputies are paralyzed. They are attending the sessions less and less and touring their districts and the country and going abroad more and more. They are straining to get on television. We cannot muster a quorum in the committees. And 200-300 laws, which are as necessary as the air we breathe, are at the ready stage. There is no one to adopt them.

There is an exception, it is true—the law on elections to the Duma. All are happy to put out here. Once again half the vacancies have been reserved for party slates—it is easier to worm one's way through to deputyship this way. Even Russia's Choice voted for this principle, although they have more opportunities in district elections—with competition.

These Resourceful Directors...

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] With the Duma or without it, but it is said that the country's main problem is not the adoption of laws but their execution....

[Bunich] The country's main problem is not laws generally but the people who use them. Take privatization, for example. Why has it led not to a growth, as expected, but to a decline in production? Why such a number of bankruptcies?

What is happening? Even if every worker has only one or two shares each, it is a colossal job forcing him to part with them when they are making a profit. No, it is more profitable to kill off the enterprise so that its employee not only give up his share cheaply but run after you even, beseeching you to buy it while it still good for at least a bottle.

This is the crux of the problem. The directors are doing everything to bankrupt their enterprises. To ensure that their shares come to be worth pennies and may be bought up on the cheap. The directors are purposely undermining the value of the shares and themselves

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

spreading rumors about their bankruptcy and themselves shouting: "We are dying!" And this is the reason for the arrears also, incidentally.

The directors have deceived and outwitted us. They have killed the shares. And however badly things are going for the director, he still has his R15 million wage, even at the military plants, even at enterprises that have been totally killed off. More fool the workers. They have sold both the vouchers and the shares. Who said we are people who are quick on the uptake? All market convolutions have failed with us, what is there to wonder at here.

But when we have sold everything for pennies, the enterprises will begin to rise.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] But, nonetheless, there have been practically no sensational bankruptcies. The chairman of the Antitrust Committee says: "As soon as we tell enterprise directors that the Bankruptcy Act is beginning to operate in respect to them, they pay off their debts instantly."

[Bunich] I said: "Driving toward bankruptcy." But they do not reach the extremity. Five minutes prior to their being declared bankrupt they will do everything—otherwise they would really lose everything.

The mind always works better when you have something to lose. Capital, for example. When your total capital is sufficient for one nail, you think of nothing. So just wait until the directors have their own property.... But it is bad that by this policy they are bringing the whole country to the point of bankruptcy—and is there confidence that the government also will wriggle out of the situation in the last five minutes? Not with me.

Luzhkov Is My Friend, But...

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] How, generally, do you assess the chances of the present politicians—to take just the serious figures. Let us assume that Yeltsin no longer cares to run and departs....

[Bunich] I would consider Yuriy Luzhkov No 1. Ivan Rybkin and Viktor Chernomyrdin, second and third. And then a long way behind. Boris Nemtsov from Nizhniy is a worthy individual.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] He would hardly come as yet.

[Bunich] Luzhkov also has his own niche. That leaves Rybkin, who would suit everyone....

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] What do you think, is Luzhkov prepared to compromise over the well-known Moscow dismissals?

[Bunich] No. Not at this time, at least. Besides, I asked him plainly: "Perhaps, by way of compromise, you could agree to the dismissal of one?" He said: "No. Both must remain."

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] It is said that, despite the recent friction, Yeltsin attended Luzhkov's housewarming party and that they dined together and found a way out of the Moscow situation.

[Bunich] No. As far as I know, they did, indeed, dine at Luzhkov's apartment. This was, in fact, a celebration of both 8 March and the new residence. They were four, with their wives. And security. They sat there a long time, four and a half hours. And this whole time Yeltsin did not give the main issue a single second. He did not raise it at all....

But, in any case, Luzhkov has now occupied a new political niche. Those who wanted to do him some harm helped him considerably. He has risen a step higher. He has grown into a figure whom the whole country knows. And he will not now leave this position.

Gorbachev—Is a Renaissance Possible?

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Everyone has suddenly started to talk about the fact that Gorbachev could return to high office. You knew him well. What do you think, does he have a chance?

[Bunich] I believe he has no chance. I did, indeed, at one time rub shoulders with him quite intensively. I would tell him everything. Even scurrilous things, at times.... Do you remember, there was the moment when he walked away from the democrats. I went to him and said: "You are alone. You have no one left. The KGB will betray you, the army will betray you, and you walked away from the democrats yourself. You are alone and you will disappear." You know what he replied? "You democrats will hang together with me in the same noose."

He thought that he alone was protection for everyone and that we would have to stay with him. He paid no heed to anyone. I had the impression that he had no need of any of his advisers. He is a person who is "buttoned-up tight," very reserved and self-satisfied. And when things were going badly for him, he would retreat into himself even more.

There are people who are fired up by office. Out of office, they fade away because their intrinsic potential is not that ponderable. Gorbachev is an example of such a person.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] But one further individual of the Gorbachev wave, incidentally, speaks about himself as not being lost to the country. This is Nikolay Ryzhkov.

[Bunich] We were all unanimous about Ryzhkov—he never displayed any gifts and took no dazzling action.

His present problem lies elsewhere. The ancients had a saying: "Good is evil when it is fleeting." It is better not to see good than after it to wallow in the mire of evil. It is better not to have been a party member than to have been expelled from the party. Thus Ryzhkov. He soared in a void, now he simply cannot forget this ascent.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] It was said that he was kind.

[Bunich] This is a gross deception. Knowing how to smile does not mean being kind. He is not kind, on the contrary, he is very malicious. You simply should have seen this person in a critical situation.

[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY] Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev said that it was Ryzhkov who persuaded Gorbachev to drop the "500 Days" program....

[Bunich] Here I agree with him. Had the "500 Days" program been put into effect, things would surely have been worse than today. This was not a program but an introductory lecture. It merely posted the signs—right turn, left turn—and would, in fact, have simply kept people under the illusion for some time longer. So this was from the "five-year plan in three years" sphere.

Heavens above, we need no more programs. We should give the mechanism that has now been engaged at least somehow a chance to work. A seriously ill patient should not be made to run. When he is back on his feet, then devise some course of rehabilitation for him....

But we are continually whipping the poor dispirited horse. Our country....

Media Issues

State Television Controversies Examined

954F1870A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 12, Mar 95 pp 1, 7

[Article by Yuriy Zubtsov, under the "Television" heading: "Scandals in TV: Money, Ambition, Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Our country's state television has yet again demonstrated a resemblance to an iceberg. The tip, visible to all, is the week's programming. The powerful underwater part, hidden from view, are the structures and subdivisions, economic mechanisms and political ulterior motives. And any attempt to swoop down and ram this iceberg has every probability of sharing the fate of the Titanic.*

Probably, the reformers' first major mistake was their striving to proceed in their work from the logic of the iceberg, and not from the logic of necessary changes. Negotiations on the complement of stockholders of the future Russian Public Television [ORT], the distribution of the shares, and the role and place of strictly broadcast structures in the future joint-stock company took place and were discussed in a more than behind-the-scenes atmosphere. Why did the complement of stockholders turn out to be exactly such? How was it decided that these, and not other, commercial structures would make up the complement of the founders? Why, of the 51 percent of the shares allotted to the state, did 36 percent go to the State Committee for the Administration of State Property, exactly 9 percent to the Ostankino company, and 3 percent each to ITAR-TASS and the television technical center?

The Tentacles of a Financial Octopus?

But it is already too late to judge about this. Now the question is being decided on the beginning of broadcasting by this structure, whatever it may be, beginning 1 April. Many of the mass information media, after the Duma deputies spoke (and in particular the chairman of its Committee on Labor and Social Support, Sergey Kalashnikov), painted the transition of Channel One to a new status as the creation of the personal television structure of the head of LogoVAZ, the all-powerful Boris Berezovskiy.

The following arguments, for example, are being advanced. The financial position of AVVA, another of Berezovskiy's creations, is clearly not brilliant, and he is rushing to lay his hands on TV in order to make big money on advertising and on the upcoming election campaign. Besides him, the ORT's Board of Directors includes chiefly "wedding generals"—the heads of major commercial structures, who will not have time seriously to engage in television. And the head of Ren-TV, Irena Lesnevskaya, and the chairman of the Duma subcommittee on TV and radio, Kirill Ignatyev, who are also among the ORT leadership, are people connected with Berezovskiy through long-time business relations.

Perhaps this corresponds to reality. But it is not very clear what, in that case, distinguishes Berezovskiy from that same Boyko (National Credit) or Khodorkovkiy (Menatep), also members of the Board of Directors? Big money will always be at the center of businessmen's attention, without respect to the position of their firms at the given moment. And as for the money itself.... At one time, during the struggle for the transfer of Channel 4 to the Independent Television [NTV] company, the opponents of this decision advanced exactly the same argument: MOST, they said, is having money problems, and it is rushing to get its hands on a channel in order to rake it in. Judging by the quality of the NTV broadcasts from its very first days, however, MOST's investments turned out to have been quite significant. And today, both the bank itself and the television company are in their fields almost symbols of successful work. So that it is not even important whether the conjectures of that time corresponded with reality. The point is that they cannot be an argument against—the good result is there to see.

Ostankino Is Against!

The conflict surrounding ORT is obviously developing now in the sphere of the emotions, which were brought to a fever pitch by the death of Vlad Listyev. And at the given moment, their main generator is the Ostankino collective itself. This can hardly be about the concern of a monopolist who has lost his position. It is enough to glance at that same programming in order to become convinced that almost more than half of the programs of Channel One are produced today not by Ostankino itself, but by various private television companies, which, by the way, very often rent space and equipment from Ostankino, hire Ostankino's specialists, and then sell

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their production to Ostankino as well. In this situation, it would seem, how much more profitable it would be to load at least the burden of purchasing onto ORT. Especially since Ostankino's debt to the Ministry of Communications amounts today to R290 billion, and to maintain at least five hours of broadcasting on Channel One for this year will come to R100.375 billion; and they do not have that kind of money, and there is nowhere to get it. So why not let the rich stockholder businessmen have some headaches too....

But there have been more lofty words about the First National Channel, about the national culture and pride, about the rights of the producers of national programs and the duty to distribute the national cinematography. The words, of course, are correct, but they bear little relation to the Ostankino of recent years. And if ORT, in the opinion of the television company collective, is threatening all this, then how is all this to be saved? To write off the debts and keep working, paying nothing and continuing within each department to disintegrate into little mini-television companies?

And then there is the giant collective's real fear of being left by the wayside, of being deprived of work, and for some, of losing the rich feeding trough of "black-market" income from advertising. Most likely, it was precisely this that incited the Ostankino contingent to rally-type passions, culminating in the resignation of Aleksandr Yakovlev from the post of chairman. In the following resolution of the assembly of the labor collective, it was precisely on Yakovlev that the guilt was placed for Ostankino's calamitous position and for the creation of the "incorrect" ORT. In this connection, the collective announced the withdrawal of the television company from the complement of ORT founders and unanimously (750 persons) demanded that the presidential edict be suspended.

However, at the parliamentary hearings of 21 March, this resolution was sounded not by Grigoriy Shevelev (Ostankino's deputy chairman), who spoke for the leadership of the company in view of the absence of the chairman himself. He took a more careful position, noting that the crisis at Ostankino had started five to seven years ago, precisely with its splitting up into little private companies. And that from his standpoint, Ostankino should today conclude a general agreement with ORT, which would grant the television company the opportunity to broadcast with rights different from those of other broadcasters—over a certain time, of course. What should happen during this time with Ostankino remains not very clear. But, evidently, it is something good and important, which will resolve all problems.

Pulling Over a Channel

A day earlier, the Association of Independent Television Producers, whose basis is composed of ATV, Ren-TV, and ViD, also announced that it was pulling out as an ORT founder. But in contrast to Ostankino, the independent television companies do not see any protest in this. On the contrary—all of them are rather in favor of the president's edict. And although, in the words of ViD head Aleksandr Lyubimov, issue can of course be taken both with the complement of the stockholders and the behind-the-scenes nature of the process of conversion to joint-stock ownership, television should work. It is simply that all private producers are sufficiently confident in the quality of their programs and assume that they will be able to sell them to ORT without being among the stockholders. (The Association has 3 percent of the stock in ORT.) They have no plans to use their packets of stock to pressure for the adoption of this or that resolution of the conflict situation that has arisen.

It is precisely the business principle of purchasing good programs from the producers, irrespective of whether they are stockholders or not, that the independent television companies view as the main thing. This process, in Lyubimov's words, should already be in full swing. And it promises normal broadcasting starting 1 April.

But whether it will begin in the hat of the new ORT is as yet unclear. The deputies intend to submit the question at the Duma session in coming days, and it is entirely probable that their resolution will turn out to be not in favor of the presidential edict. It is possible that the president will also insist on his edict: He, according to certain data, is very resolutely disposed. The ORT is working as well—its Board of Directors just appointed to the position of general director, which had been vacant since Listyev's death, Sergey Blagovolin, who before this had been head of ORT's analytic service. (Incidentally, after Eduard Sagalayev declined to take this post, Irena Lesnevskaya was actively slated for it, which served as an extra argument in favor of conversion to joint-stock ownership "Berezovskiy-style." The result, as you see, turned out to be different.) The question of advertising is unresolved, as before, but it is now at the stage of being studied, and will yet again, evidently, be considered at the ORT Board of Directors at the moment that this issue of the newspaper is signed off on. To the post of head of the Federal Television and Radio Service was appointed the experienced television man Valentin Lazutkin, which appointment was met by the approval of practically all the conflicting sides, but matters have so far not changed an iota. Meanwhile, at Ostankino, there is as before no chairman, and the slightly confused secretary in his reception room had a hard time answering the question of whose reception room, in fact, it now was: "Probably, at this point no one's."

Gryzunov Counters Claims Made by Limonov

954F1722A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 9, 1 Mar 95 p 11

[Polemic between Eduard Limonov and Sergey Gryzunov]

[FBIS Translated Text]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Eduard Limonov: We Join Battle Openly

Having read the article "When the 'Nazis' Speak, Procurators Are Silent" in the 15 February edition of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, I am impelled to respond to Mr. Gryzunov. Since that article (located, moreover, under the rubric " 'Fascism' and the Press") affected me personally and my newspaper, LIMONKA.

I will state first of all that the chairman of Roskompechat [Russian Committee on the Press] abuses his official position to an unheard-of degree. Being a civil servant and receiving his salary from the budget, that is, from the taxpayers, Mr. Gryzunov allows himself to carry his personal political predilections and antipathies over into the area of statehood. The reader perceives his utterances to be the position of the state, while all they are, are his personal opinion.

What is known about Mr. Gryzunov? He is a "democrat" in quotation marks, an advocate of liberal capitalism and of forced economic reforms, which aim to force Russians to live in capitalism. That is, the political position of the gentleman is directly opposed to the position of those publications that he incites (there is no other way of putting it), and advises the procuracy to suppress: to apply sanctions against them, to shut them down. Consequently, as a political opponent he is biased, an interested party, and he can in no way be objective. It is precisely to Mr. Gryzunov that one cannot turn for an objective opinion (judgment) on the subject of the 157 publications contained on the "list" of the Moscow Antifascist Center (MAC).

The MAC, having without authorization compiled a "list" of publications that do not suit it, is not a state organization. Of itself, this office says that its "task is the struggle against extremism and the threat of fascism in Russia." However, the MAC directs its main efforts, or more accurately speaking, all of its efforts, toward the struggle against anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, and "the MAC has made a present of several documents to the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem Universities." I personally do not demand that the MAC be closed down; why then is the MAC asking for trouble and conducting itself exactly like an extremist organization? The chairman of the MAC is a certain Yevgeniy Proshechkin; who he is, is complicated to say. And by what kind of right do he and his MAC poke around to prohibit and pass judgment? Just because they have called their own selves "antifascist"? It is precisely at the Roskompechat that MAC passed to Mr. Gryzunov, on 18 August 1994, the notorious "list" of publications. The friends passed it to their friend. And Mr. Gryzunov gave the matter a state dimension. Which the MAC needed very much.

The 157 publications (among them are newspapers whose position I do not at all share) can defend themselves if they like. But I do not like the fact that Mr. Gryzunov, being not a private individual but the chairman of Roskompechat, speaks both about me personally and about the newspaper LIMONKA in an article under such an odious and discrediting name ("Nazi"), in the "Fascism" rubric. And I demand of Mr. Gryzunov a public apology. As the chairman of Roskompechat. Let him keep his personal opinion to himself. LIMONKA is a newspaper that expresses nationalistic views, yes. Some of the articles express the opinion of the national Bolshevist party headed by me, yes. But I will not allow anyone to link my newspaper with "fascism" and "Nazism" in order to discredit it.

Blackmailing political opponents with "fascism" is an increasingly widespread phenomenon in the political life of Russia. Making use of our people's tragic memory of the bloody war with Germany, dirty-handed politicians from the democratic camp defame, marginalize, and discredit the whole spectrum of patriotic and nationalistic publications and parties, blackmailing them with "fascism." Unfairly shuffling the cards and tying the crimes of German Nazism of 1933-1945 with today's Russian nationalism. Now I will take and connect Mr. Gryzunov with all the crimes of capital against the workers. With the shooting down of the Paris Commune (70,000 people), with the shooting of Chicago workers in 1888, with the suppression of the Lyon weavers' uprising, with the executions of the Luddites.... Absurd? But after all, that is exactly the way Mr. Gryzunov and his friends from the MAC work.

Mr. Gryzunov and his ilk would in fact like to permit the publication only of government newspapers, as was the case for the 70-plus years of CPSU totalitarianism. Calling themselves democrats and antifascists, the Mr. Gryzunovs are neither the one nor the other. They lust after the destruction of the nationalistic opposition, and they know full well that they need to start with the press. They are unembarrassed by the fact that they are calling on a whole spectrum of public opinion to close its mouth. It does not enter their minds that if these 157 publications exist with the monstrously high cost of paper and typographic services, that means that there is a vital public need for these publications.

I will mention another aspect of the problem. In the USSR, a whole epoch was carefully hushed up: the explosion of nationalism in 1918-1945. Already in 1934, 16 nationalistic regimes were in power in Europe. It is natural that today, during a new explosion of nationalism, an enormous interest in that epoch has arisen among the public, and a thirst to know what actually happened in Hitler's Germany, in Mussolini's Italy, in Pilsudski's Poland, in Horthy's Hungary.... The heroes and villains of that time, the ideas, theories, and practice, keenly interest the Russian public, and this is a healthy interest. Mr. Gryzunov wants to deprive the Russian people of this information, which is often contained in these 157 publications, and in LIMONKA as well. But who is Mr. Gryzunov to decide what Russians can and cannot read and know about; who is he to limit the spiritual nourishment of the people? Who does he think he is?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Gryzunov is revolted at the "complicity with the right on the part of the law enforcement organs." And I am revolted at the unpardonable conduct of Mr. Gryzunov, who is nothing but a bureaucrat, who has high-handedly taken upon himself the functions of the "thought police," and his complicity with "his" publications.

And what kind of newspaper is MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, Mr. Gryzunov? For frenzy and extremism, it does not yield to all 157 publications together. In October 1993, the "Komsomolites" declared a million-ruble prize for the head of Anpilov. What is that—humanism? How is one to classify MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS? As liberal- democratic fascism? And then there is the rag LITERATURNIYE VESTI, where your friends from the MAC often publish their articles. The newspaper calls itself "antifascist," but in its third issue it comes out, militantly and hysterically, against "fascists"—well, forget about that, they are not people to you—but also against homosexuals.... And where are the Gypsies, one wants to ask Mr. Oskotskiy, the editor of the newspaper. Mr. Gryzunov does not notice the "liberal-democratic fascism" in his own camp; he does not want to.

With Mr. Gryzunov, everything is clear. He is an adherent of totalitarian "democracy." For the sake of the advent of that "beautiful" future order, where the MAC, Proshechkin, and Gryzunov will decide what we are to read, Mr. Gryzunov works much and actively. He blackmails us with fascism. He struggles against the nationalistic opposition, making use of calumny, and he gives false information. All this in the interests of his political camp, and, possibly, first of all in the interests of the MAC. "The connection of Russia and Germany in the spreading of a **worldwide contagion** seems almost mystical. Going from terrorism to xenophobia and Judophobia...." Gryzunov writes in his article. That is, the chairman of the Russian Committee on the Press accuses Russia of spreading "worldwide contagion," of terrorism, of xenophobia, of Judophobia!

I demand that Mr. Gryzunov apologize to me. And I challenge him to a televised duel. Russia needs such an open argument as it does air. Let the people themselves decide who is who.

Sergey Gryzunov: There Will Be No Duel

Responding to Mr. Limonov, it must be acknowledged, is an endeavor that is not too enthralling and pleasant, if only because it seems to me rather boring to expound completely obvious and rudimentary truths to a person who set himself up long ago and to good advantage beyond the borders of the country that was once his own, and when flying back for visits does not even attempt—if only for the sake of decency—to find out what has happened to Russia and by what laws it now lives.

Whereas if he did take an interest, Eduard Limonov would probably learn, with a surprise considerable for him, that one of the duties of the department that I head is precisely, and I quote, "taking of measures envisioned by the legislation of the Russian Federation to disallow the abuse of free mass information and free publishing activity." It would have been still better if Mr. Limonov, before turning to LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, had taken the trouble at the very least to have glanced at Article 4 of the Russian Federation law "On the Mass Information Media," which states, "It is not permissible to use the mass information media... to call for seizure of power or forcible change to the constitutional order and the integrity of the state, or for **the inflammation of national, class, social, and religious intolerance or dissension,** for the propaganda of war."

I understand perfectly well that with such lengthy and abundant citation of normative acts well known to the Russian public, I risk putting the educated LITERATURNAYA GAZETA reader to sleep. I hope, however, for his indulgence: Someone has to go about the enlightenment of the prodigal son of Russian letters. Otherwise, he will completely lose touch with reality in his Western European hinterland.

Then again, the prospect of a polemic, even by correspondence, with Eduard Limonov does not appeal for the reason that it is simply boring to have dealings with people who are always "against." In this article, Limonov is against Gryzunov. During his passionate youth, Mr. Limonov was against Bolshevism. Now, he is against democracy. In a recent television program, he was even against Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, although, it would seem, what could these two have to divide them?!

Those who have had occasion to read the works of Mr. Limonov have noticed how helpless, how confused in thought and in action, and at the same time how cruel his heroes are; the world is merciless to them, but neither are they inclined to spare anyone or anything. They are spiritually blasted, and on these declining ruins it is no longer possible that anything worthwhile will take shape.... I pity his heroes, and I pity the author himself as well. The latter for one reason only: It is possible to paint such penetrating and hopeless characters, in whom the reader believes unreservedly, only from one's very self. Convincing literature about people who have lost themselves hopelessly.

Actually, it is not hard to become convinced of the lostness, the confusion, of Eduard Limonov himself if one reads this letter of his carefully—it is a peculiar kind of cri de coeur. Judge for yourself: An able man of letters, misunderstood and essentially banished from the then-USSR by dull-witted **Bolsheviks,** who has already lived to see fame and change in Russia, which made possible the publication of his books in his homeland, becomes the leader of a national-**Bolshevik** party.

With genuine pathos he protests against the coupling of the ideology of the newspaper LIMONKA with the ideology of Nazism, completely forgetting that national-socialism and national- Bolshevism can only grow from the same root. On the one hand, Limonov speaks of "our

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

people's tragic memory of the bloody war with Germany," and on the other, he demonstrates a complete unconsciousness in justifying the existence of the neo-fascist and national extremist press... by the laws of his hated capitalistic market: If the people are buying it, despite the high prices, that means that they, the people, need it. How muddle-headed is this Mr. Limonov.

There is just one thing I do not understand: Can it be that he himself cannot see what the bellicose advance of national extremism, so noticeable in recent years, threatens Russia with? Can it be that he was not reminded of anything by the utterances of the financial "genius" of Russian nationalism, Aleksey Vedenkin, which resounded on 22 February on the Russian Television program "Newspaper Stories"? Executions without trial or investigation, the suppression of millions of the heterodox in concentration camps, fraternization with the criminal world for the bringing in of "iron order"—all this, by the way, is not my own fantasy, but the immediate plans of Russian fascists after their ascension to power, recorded in a television program by that same Aleksey Vedenkin and those like him.

To my mind, the strangest thing about that whole topic is the fact that our home-grown fascists by no means conspire; they share their thoughts and plans absolutely openly, even with journalists whom they do not count among their supporters. They are not afraid of anything and openly assert that the staffs of the law enforcement organs are made up largely of "their" people. One does not wish to believe this, but against one's will, one begins to wonder: If the number of fascist newspapers and newssheets in Russia has clearly exceeded the critical mass, if in the procuracies of various levels time and time again no basis is found for bringing the editors of Brown publications to account, then perhaps it is after all the truth, bitter though it may be? And how are we all further to live with such a truth?

I cannot not fail to speak about one more thing. It would probably not have been a bad thing for the overseas man of letters, before offering a respected newspaper an example of his epistolary work, to have studied, at least superficially, the views of the person whom he so heatedly challenges to a "television duel." And then he would have learned that the bureaucrat Gryzunov has always been an adherent of the destatization of the mass information media, about which I have written more than once on the pages of IZVESTIYA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, that same LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.... That the department headed by me has worked out principles according to which state subsidies are rendered only to the independent press, and publications founded by structures of authority should be subsidized by local budgets. So what is there for us to argue about in a "television duel"? Or does Mr. Limonov bring everything around to reproaches of the type that he brought against the newspaper LITERATURNIYE VESTI and its editor in chief, V. Oskotskiy, who does not like homosexuals?

And finally, the last thing. Mr. Limonov is boundlessly interested in who gave me as a state bureaucrat the right to the unambiguous interpretation of the ideology of neo-fascism and national extremism. I will answer straight: The president and the Government of the Russian Federation. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin has uttered just this position repeatedly: in his newspaper, radio, and television interviews, in his meeting with the intelligentsia in the fall of last year, and in his annual Message to the Federal Assembly, finally. I will mention just one fragment from the Message: "The organs of state power of all levels and society must unite their efforts for the timely and stiff rebuff of militant nationalism, any manifestations of xenophobia, and discrimination on the basis of ethnic, racial, and religious criteria." So, whether Mr. Limonov likes it or not, I am carrying out the directions of the president of Russia.

This is why I am compelled to disappoint Eduard Limonov: I have nothing to apologize to him for. And there will be no television duel between us. At least until I see some rather weighty arguments advanced by him against my position. There would have to be something to argue about.

But for the time being, I repeat, I see a confused man, having more than once been injured by life, who reminds me of a boxer who has failed to fend off a powerful blow and who is now on the floor. He tries to rise with all his might, everything swims before his eyes, but he stubbornly plunges into battle, not understanding that just now he would be easy pickings even for a youth. No, there will be no duel. I faithfully adhere to the rule that was alive even in Rus: One does not kick a man when he is down.

Military & Space Issues

Army Officers Dismissed for Refusal To Fight in Chechnya

LD0704212195 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Video report by Aleksandr Gerasimov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A total of 557 Russian Army officers who refused to fight in Chechnya have been dismissed from the Armed Forces and criminal cases have been brought against them, General Vysotskiy, head of the Russian Defense Ministry's main personnel directorate, told a news conference today.

[Begin Vysotskiy recording] They swore an oath to Russia and broke that oath. I think that it is simply not... [pauses] rather than cowardice it can be qualified as simply impossible today. [end recording]

Moreover, three former deputy defense ministers—Generals Gromov, Mironov, and Kondratyev, who declined to command the Chechen group of forces—were not among the list of those who had been punished.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

As is known, Boris Gromov has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the rank of deputy minister; the department to which the general belongs has not been specified.

We learned from sources in the General Staff that Valeriy Mironov, former head of the personnel directorate, has been appointed chief military adviser under the chairman of the government; while Georgiy Kondratyev, who does not have sufficiently high patronage, is now in the hospital. It is not difficult to imagine that both generals will make the maximum effort to remain in the Ministry of Defense until 1996 when the question of changing the minister may arise. At the same time, experts think that Boris Gromov, who more or less voluntarily left the Armed Forces, is already out of the running to be the next head of the military department. [passage omitted] [video shows news conference and generals in their offices]

FSK Says Captured 'Dudayev Archives' Reveal Chechnya Corruption

LD0804140195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By CRIME-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 8—Tens of thousands of presidential, governmental and ministerial documents and letters, making up the so called Dudayev archives, are evidence of criminality of the Dudayev regime, ITAR-TASS was told by a spokesman for the Russian federal Counter-Intelligence Service (FSK), Mikhail Kirilov.

Kirilov voiced regret that no special team had been set up during the military campaign in Chechnya for centralised collection and processing of the documents seized by the federal troops.

The Dudayev archives were assorted by a FSK group later in Mozdok.

Incriminating evidence found in the archives has been passed to the prosecutor's office, local FSK branches reestablished in Chechnya, and the State Duma Commission for Enquiry into Causes of the Chechen Crisis. The commission is chaired by Stanislav Govorukhin.

The seized documents bring into a picture the evolution of political separatism and subversive activities of the Dudayev regime, and ethical degradation of its apparatus.

Archives of the Chechen Finance Ministry and National Bank testify that public foreign exchange funds were spent on education and medical treatment abroad of children of Chechen administrators.

Foreign exchange was used to fund foreign visits of governmental delegations which invariably included relatives of ministers and Dudayev's clan. "Aid" to apparatus staffers was a traditional item.

At the same time financial applications from hospitals and educational centres were typically stamped with resolutions to scrutinise but rarely satisfy them.

From Saturday on, ITAR-TASS will cover findings of importance in the Dudayev archives.

Moscow Says Chechen Military, Political Situation 'Unchanged'

LD0904165995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1543 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 9 (TASS)—The military and political situation in the Chechen republic remains unchanged, the Russian government press service said in a statement on Sunday.

The press service said that "the process of stabilisation in the social and economic sphere continues. At present, over 30 tonnes of bread are baked in Groznyy daily; over 55 tonnes of humanitarian aid arrive every day and 49 trading outlets have reopened. In some parts of the city water supplies have been restored to provide 83 tonnes of water daily. There where the water supplying system has not been fixed yet, water is delivered in 42 tanks.

"A total of 5.2 billion rouble worth of pension arrears have been paid as of today.

"A new problem facing the Groznyy authorities is the unsatisfactory performance of the cordon posts at the entrances to the city in connection with the growing inflow of returning residents. According to the federal migration service, there are over 200,000 residents in Groznyy, compared to only 80,000 awhile ago. Up to 5,000 people arrive there daily. In this connection, the territorial administration, in conjunction with the national accord committee and the district commandants, has checked the work of cordon posts in order to increase their capacities," the statement said.

Top Secret Documents Stolen From Air Force Institute

LD0904161895 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A bandit attack was perpetrated at the Civil Air Navigation Institute, as a result two persons were killed. Top secret documents have been stolen. Under cover of darkness unknown persons tried to break into the institute's premises. When they encountered guards, the criminals brutally killed two former pilots who were guarding the institute. Investigators assume that the murder weapon was probably a hammer. Having climbed to the 6th floor of the building where the secret department of the Air Force is located, they stole top secret documents, three Makarov submachine guns and an R7mm [as heard]. The fate of the armed guards who should have been near to the documents and the money is unknown for the time being. The Federal Security Service has joined in the investigation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Official Plays Down Importance of Documents

LD0904174495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It was an anxious morning at [Moscow's] Militia Station No. 132 today. Documents marked secret were stolen during the night from the Civil Air Navigation Institute on the Volokolamskoye Road. Here is what Valeriy Komarov, the head of Station No. 132, told our radio station.

[Begin Komarov recording] A military organization has its premises inside the building along with the civilian organization—and by the way there is nothing top secret in there. The fact that documents are marked secret means nothing. In no way are we talking about state secrets being disclosed here—nothing of the kind. It was an ordinary crime.

There was a double murder. Two corpses. We found the corpses of the two murdered guards. The most likely version is that the guards found themselves witnesses to the crime. [end recording]

Progress M-27 Transport, Supply Carrier Launched

LD0904203195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1955 GMT 9 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Apr—Military crews of Russia's Military Space Forces launched the Soyuz-U carrier rocket from the Baykonur cosmodrome today at exactly 2334 Moscow time [1934 GMT]. The carrier is to put the Progress M-27 transport and supply spacecraft, which is taking 2.4 tonnes of "baggage" to the MIR station, into orbit. The baggage includes fuel, equipment, and food for the cosmonauts. The docking is planned for 12 April.

Progress M-27 Mission, Parameters Detailed

LD1004053795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0527 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 10 ITAR-TASS—The Russian space ferry Progress M-27 is scheduled to dock with manned orbiting station Mir on April 12.

The ferry spacecraft was launched by Russian military space forces at 23.34 Moscow time on Sunday from the Baykonur space centre in Kazakhstan.

The spacecraft was lifted off by the Soyuz-V booster which will take it to the orbit and deliver 2.4 tonnes of load, including fuel, apparatus and equipment, as well as food to the team on board the Mir station.

The Progress M-27's orbit has a maximum distance from the earth's surface of 242 km and the minimum distance of 193 km. Its revolution period is 88.6 minutes and inclination of 51.6 degrees.

According to telemetric data, the onboard systems of the space ferry operate normally.

Federal Assembly

Duma Wants To Consider 1990 Border Deal With U.S.

LD0704191295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 7 (Interfax)—Russian deputies on Friday passed a resolution recommending President Boris Yeltsin to send down a draft law on the ratification of the 1990 Soviet-American agreement on demarcation of sea borders signed in Washington. The resolution was backed by 267 deputies.

The agreement was signed by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. secretary of State James Baker.

Russian Deputy Vitaliy Sevastyanov in a memorandum to the house said "there are serious grounds to believe that the Soviet Union has unjustifiably ceded about 30,000 square kilometers of continental shelf in the Barents Sea".

The memorandum says that any further delay by the foreign ministry to bring the paper for ratification "may lead to dire implications and it will be next to impossible to resolve the problem" after the U.S. has entrenched itself there.

Sevastyanov says the State Duma must be allowed to decide whether the deal is in Russia's interests.

Duma Turns Down LDPR Proposal To Axe Yeltsin's Kiev Visit

LD0704104395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0818 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Apr—The State Duma has turned down a proposal from Liberal Democratic Party of Russia deputy Aleksey Zvyagin to call on Boris Yeltsin to cancel the official visit the Russian president is scheduled to make to Kiev. It was announced earlier that Boris Yeltsin visit Ukraine at the end of April.

At today's plenary session of the chamber, only 165 deputies voted for the visit to be called off; a quorum required for any decision to be passed is 226 votes.

However, the deputies agreed with another of Aleksey Zvyagin's proposals to place on the agenda the issue of the illegality of handing over the city of Sevastopol to Ukraine; they rejected his proposal for the Duma to debate imposing economic sanctions against the Republic of Ukraine.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lipitskiy Interviewed on Budget, Elections

954F2012A Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 4

[Interview with V.S. Lipitskiy, deputy of the State Duma and chairman of the Political Council of the Russian Social Democratic People's Party, by A. Zharinov; place and date not given: "Will the Capital Settle Down in Siberia?"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Zharinov] Vasiliy Semenovich, you have not yet become a resident of Novosibirsk, although you persist in trying to: You visit the city every month and inform people of how our regional problems are being solved. And you have decided to move the capital of Russia here, to Novosibirsk. Was that some kind of populist gesture, or should this be taken seriously?

[Lipitskiy] I know that some people have regarded my suggestion as an advertising ploy or an attempt—thank you for your warm words—to become a resident of Novosibirsk to a greater extent than the indigenous residents are. In fact there is a very serious idea here. Even the very discussion of problem of "moving" is of practical use.

[Zharinov] An attempt to aggravate the problem of "center-regions" in the government and the presidential structures?

[Lipitskiy] After becoming a deputy I very quickly became convinced of how absurd and disproportional the distribution between the center and regions is. For instance, now the average level of monetary income of a Muscovite is five times greater than that of somebody who lives in Novosibirsk. Why? Do they work better there? Do people's heads think better? No. This has all happened because of the absurd system that has been forming in our country for years. Many people have already tried to raise the question in a traditional way: We must distribute things better, do it more intelligently... but we are not seeing any result.

[Zharinov] And then you decided that the more glaring the form in which you attract attention to this problem, the greater the hope of success?

[Lipitskiy] Even the very fact that we have begun to speak about moving the capital has led, specifically, to a situation where with the budget adjustment for 1995 about a trillion rubles was taken from Moscow and distributed among the regions. Including for construction of the Novosibirsk subway. A line for that has appeared in the budget. Incidentally, I unexpectedly discovered how many supporters this idea has.

[Zharinov] Where?

[Lipitskiy] In the State Duma, among other places. Recently, along with several people who think as I do, I suggested placing the "movement" of the capital on the State Duma agenda. The question was supported by more than 100 deputies. Actually half of those in attendance in the hall. The result was very high! This confirms my idea that moving the capital cannot be removed from the agenda until we at least achieve the basic improvements in the distribution of the budget within the country.

[Zharinov] One must assume that as soon as the attitude toward the regions changes, it will be possible to abandon this notion.

[Lipitskiy] I see a serious reason to continue the discussion of this idea even beyond that. This makes sense not so much financially as geopolitically. As a result of the collapse of the Union our state has been severely cut off on the West. We have an unfavorable climate on the border there. Circumstances are being aggravated both in the Baltic countries and the Ukraine. Both NATO and the European Union are reinforcing their positions.

[Zharinov] Recently there was a report that the Czech Republic is offering the former Soviet military bases to NATO subdivisions for training and working out joint operations with armies of the former Warsaw Pact.

[Lipitskiy] Taking into account this circumstance and the generally changed geopolitical configuration of Russia, we must shift the center of gravity of national interests to the East. There we can look for our future and priority economic ties. And therefore the shift of the capital closer to its geographic center, to the point where Sakhalin is not considered just a place close to Japan—this is becoming more and more timely.

[Zharinov] On holidays we have become accustomed to seeing in the subways your colorful "congratulatory portraits" with the mandatory caption "our man in Moscow." Many people understand this literally: Our man in Moscow is doing something for the people of Novosibirsk. You have already mentioned the subway... but I do not think that the 78 billion rubles allotted for Novosibirsk is the work of Lipitskiy alone, money in response to his threat to move Moscow.

[Lipitskiy] No, of course not; in any case this would be the total effect of numerous efforts. As for other areas of my activity... you know what the dramatic contradiction of the life and activity of each deputy is? According to our constitutional authority we have the right only to sign and adopt laws. The constitution does not grant us anything else. Therefore in the regulations for the work of the Duma we again introduced or returned the concept of deputy inquiry. As it used to be. But I must say frankly that the reaction to deputy inquiries is appreciable only in those ministries and departments where the old cadres have remained. Because of their education they know that they must respond to a deputy inquiry. In places where the younger generation already prevails they do not pay any special attention to them. After all, nobody will hold them responsible.

[Zharinov] Is it true that your ideas have changed to a certain degree during the time you have been a deputy:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

concerning the omnipotence, the possibilities, and the authority of the deputy corps?

[Lipitskiy] I knew that this would happen and therefore even during the course of my election campaign I focused on this and the idea of "your man in Moscow" came to me. I understood that this time it would be much more difficult for the deputies to defend regional interests. And a great deal will have to be decided through personal contacts. Those who have them have certain advantages over the others. When a new person enters the corridors of power and begins to wander around in them and look for contacts, his chances are not great.

It turned out to be somewhat easier for me than for my other colleagues to resolve specific issues. For almost every day we receive requests, instructions, orders... there is an immense amount of correspondence. People communicate mainly about things other than legislative issues....

[Zharinov] My roof sprang a leak....

[Lipitskiy] Precisely. But there is a category of voters who look at the role of the deputy more broadly and propose amendments to laws and the introduction of new legislative acts. But mainly, I repeat, these have to do with quite specific needs in daily life. Most frequently there is drama, pain... few people share their joys. Naturally, organizations, plants, and rayon administrations communicate as well.

[Zharinov] How are your relations with the local authorities? Does this communication help to solve the problems of the region?

[Lipitskiy] The oblast soviet does a large amount of very professional legislative work. I and other deputies of the oblast receive findings from the oblast soviet regarding draft laws almost every day.

Far from all territories work so actively. We actually know the position of the oblast soviet regarding each law. And that helps me a great deal.

I have normal working relations with the oblast administration. Relations with the mayor's office are somewhat more complicated—here we have a specific level of business. It is frequently necessary to communicate regarding housing problems, repair of housing, and heating lines. Of course I understand that the resources are always limited and the mayor's office has its priorities and plans... but this does not feel very good when you go before the voters and something has not been done.

[Zharinov] Tell me, how did you vote on the 1995 budget?

[Lipitskiy] Negative. To support the budget means to support the government and its policy. In our specific case this also means to support Chubays. After all, he is responsible in the government for the financial-economic sphere and put forth the budget as a great personal achievement.

Moreover, I do not believe in the budget, in the sources of augmenting it, or in the prediction of incomes and inflation. There will probably be a repetition of what happened in 1994, when we received cheerful predictions in exactly the same way and then at the end of the year the finance minister went up to the podium and announced: "We were mistaken in our prognosis... that did not happen here... we did not collect the taxes, we did not receive...."

[Zharinov] It seems that one part of the sources for augmentation has already been realized. The IMF is allotting $6 billion.

[Lipitskiy] If we put together all the promises that we are receiving from international financial institutions and compare that with what we have left in reality, everything will be understandable. Unfortunately the documents signed with the IMF—these... for the fund are still not a basis for payment.

[Zharinov] Where then do they get such "unanimity" in voting on the budget?

[Lipitskiy] Part of Yabloko, part of the DPR [Democratic Party of Russia] with Sergey Glazyev, and part of the independent deputies were voting "against" the Communists of Russia faction. And the result was determined by several factors.

In the first place, by the dual position of the Agrarian faction. While being fierce opponents of the government policy, the Agrarians have always made concessions when certain specific agricultural problems are being resolved.

In the second place, the traditional voting of the faction of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] had its effect. While being completely unrestrained by criticism of everything the government is doing, this faction changes radically when things come down to a vote. Actually the budget was put through by Zhirinovskiy. Their faction in general did not attend the latest meetings (having declared a boycott), but they all showed up on that day and voted for the budget.

The third thing is the ambiguous position of Yabloko. On the one hand Yavlinskiy is always criticizing the budget and saying that this is "not worth the paper it is written on," and on the other—the budget committee that submits the budget is made up mainly of members of his faction.

[Zharinov] Recently at a meeting with journalists Boris Yeltsin said: "I like the situation in the country now. Our relations with the State Duma and the Federation Council are the best, and with the government... the budget has been adopted, and this is not manna from heaven but a serious order for further accord."

[Lipitskiy] I do not think that that was said very strongly. Yes, the external attributes of power now look fairly stable....

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Zharinov] ...And literally the night before the editorial offices received the text of the draft law on the payment of stipends and temporary wages to those who are not working. After all, it is no accident that this law was prepared.

In the press there were analytical computations concerning the budget for low-income people. It turned out that the pensioners are again below all minimums and it is almost necessary to introduce a state of emergency in the country in order to save these people. Even the supplement to the minimum wage earmarked by the president will not significantly change the situation.

[Lipitskiy] Today we have presidential "vetoes" of the law on increasing the amount of the minimum pension and wage and the law on restoration and protection of savings. We have already received two "vetoes." This is a record! There is your real social policy—what the authorities do after all the discussions about the social orientation of the economy. And this is being done now in the service of the monetarist concept which has failed completely.

[Zharinov] Vasiliy Semenovich, what is happening to Rutskoy's party now? Recently he visited Novosibirsk, gathered together the members of the local organization, removed some from their party duties and approved others....

[Lipitskiy] Unfortunately this is the kind of somewhat lax attitude toward party traditions and discipline we find in Aleksandr Vladimirovich. It seems to me that it is basically related to the fact that in general he has been greatly removed from party affairs. First because he was vice president and, naturally, could not worry about details. Then came his prison term. Now immediately after being released from Lefortovo he became attracted by the idea of creating the social-patriotic movement "Derzhava." He was also somehow on the sidelines of what the party organizations were engaged in.

In my opinion, this generated in him a reassessment of his capabilities and his influence on these organizations. The notion that all of his ideas should be accepted without criticism and without discussion and accepted for unconditional implementation. Yet our party was formed and operated during the last years as a social democratic one. The change of its name to social democratic in May 1994 was a realization of what had been included in it from the very beginning. This was written in the charter but it was not reflected in the name.

When we began to create the Social Democratic Union (SDS), joining social democratic forces together, we saw that there were two tendencies in the party. A considerable majority of the organizations (about 60) participated in the creation of the SDS. About 20 organizations participated in the formation of Derzhava.

I did not consider it necessary to intensify this problem. Life should show with whom and how. And up to a particular point Rutskoy in general understood this and did not try to aggravate the situation.

And suddenly, quite unexpectedly, at a meeting of the board Aleksandr Vladimirovich demanded that we "stop engaging in social democracy" and everyone march under the banner of Derzhava. It was categorical: Anyone who is not with us is against us.

Naturally, the party board could not support such a strange idea, which contradicts our charter, our program, and everything on earth. This would have to be some different kind of party.

When the board spoke out against it, Aleksandr Vladimirovich gathered together his people, some of whom had nothing at all to do with the party, declared them to be the party council, and adopted a decision that it would change, remove, and appoint... everyone. In addition to the laws of the constitution, a party member must also follow the party charter. If he does not fulfill it, he is not a member of that party.

That was a difficult decision because we have been through a lot together, both personally and on the human plane.

Unfortunately, this does not exhaust the issue. There are attacks from that side. But party organizations continue to function. We are now preparing for conducting the regular meeting of the federal council of the SDS. Our party will undoubtedly go to the elections as a part of the social democratic union, in a bloc with the trade unions and other socialist organizations.

[Zharinov] Tell us about your intentions for this election campaign.

[Lipitskiy] I am very disturbed by the third wave of discussions to the effect that the elections will do nothing, that they should be postponed. That in the name of stability it is necessary to wait a couple of years. Eight of the largest Moscow banks, and they are essentially an "octopus," which have put down roots throughout the country, have come out with a statement to the effect that they support the political forces that want to postpone or cancel the elections. It is not difficult to understand why. They are satisfied with what is going on in the country now.

A new group was created in the Duma recently—"Stability"—which stated directly that its task is to postpone the elections.

Therefore before making my personal plans I will have to fight to make sure that these elections take place.

Russia's Choice, Stability To Support Government in Vote

LD0604213195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1138 GMT 6 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 6 April—The Russian Duma's Russia's Choice Faction will "naturally vote against" the expression of no-confidence in the Russian Government, the deputy chairman of this deputies' faction Boris Zolotukhin told ITAR-TASS today.

Let us remind you that the motion of no-confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers was initiated by Konstantin Zatulin, the Chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, who believes that the government has taken a wrong position in talks with Ukraine.

The new Duma faction, "Stability," which was recently officially registered by the chamber, will also not vote for the resignation of the government, deputy Aleksey Aleksandrov, one of those who stood behind the creation of the faction, told ITAR-TASS.

He noted that the faction has not yet discussed this issue, but it is obvious to him that it won't support Zatulin's proposal on the resignation of Viktor Chernomyrdin's government.

Duma Withdraws Vote of Confidence in Government From Agenda

LD0704132795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian State Duma has withdrawn the vote of confidence in the government from the agenda. It was expected to discuss the issue on April 12, Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin told a Duma plenary today.

The statement was made after Vladimir Zhirinovskiy announced his faction cancels its signatures in the demand for vote on confidence in the government.

Duma Factions Voice 'Concern' With Privatization Plans

LD0604213095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1808 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 6 (Interfax)—The leaders of State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) factions have voiced their concern about the government-proposed early sale of a considerable package of shares in privatized businesses.

The Russia's Women (leader Yekaterina Lakhova), Agrarian Party of Russia (Mikhail Lapshin), Democratic Party of Russia (Sergey Glazyev), Communist Party of Russia (Gennadiy Zyuganov), Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (Vladimir Zhirinovskiy) and New Regional Policy (Vladimir Medvedev) parliamentary groups stated in their open letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin that the forced sale did not guarantee that the federal budget will receive the planned revenues. The proposed privatization strategy will result in lower prices of top-priority enterprises' shares.

The deputies believe it necessary to "scrutinize the possible effects of the sale of state-controlled shares in the key branches of the economy such as the oil and gas complex, the defense industry, energy production, the steel and iron industry and the non-ferrous metals industry in order not to affect Russia's strategic interests and its national security."

Duma Fails To Strip Mavrodi of Immunity

LD0704123695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov; "Duma Again Fails To Strip Fraudster Mavrodi of Immunity"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian State Duma lacked 17 votes Friday to strip its member, Sergey Mavrodi, of immunity and allow criminal charges against him for the activities of his "MMM" investment company which has left millions of Russians without their savings.

The "MMM" has built the so-called financial pyramid by paying to its first shareholders with money received from the last ones. Last summer the highly-advertised pyramid collapsed leaving millions without money and causing huge protests in Moscow and across Russia.

Mavrodi was then detained on charges of major tax dodging which was used by him to blame the government for the inability of his company to pay the money back.

Getting thus an image of a "martyr", Mavrodi succeeded to win a seat in the State Duma in by-elections thus securing himself immunity.

His company never paid the money back, but instead began to issue new tickets with a Mavrodi's portrait, thus building the second pyramid which later also collapsed. However, the "MMM" continues to invest in TV commercials calling on those who still have courage to invest into it.

The Russian Prosecutor's Office has several times requested to strip Mavrodi of immunity, and every time the Duma refused to do that.

This time 283 lawmakers voted to strip Mavrodi of immunity while 300 votes were necessary for that.

Duma To Mull Bill on Forming Upper Chamber Without Election

MK0704090195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Drafts" rubric: "Duma To Consider 'Two Options' of Forming Council. Federation Council May Well Remain Unchanged This Year"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin said at yesterday's meeting with Management Academy students that the Russian Federation State Duma would shortly consider two existing drafts of the law on forming the Federation Council.

One draft calls for the Federal Assembly's upper chamber to be made up of "popularly elected heads" of regional legislative and executive authorities. The "alternative" draft proposes that "two representatives be elected by popular vote from each branch of power" in all 89 Federation components (that is, "authorized representatives" of both local branches of power to be approved by regional elections). In addition, Ivan Rybkin said, "a number of deputies" insist that the Federation Council should include 180 deputies, of whom 178 would be elected by the Federation components, while the chamber's speaker and his first deputy would be appointed by the president.

The new Russian Constitution says with regard to forming the Federation Council that it will "include two representatives from each Federation component: one each from the legislative and executive organs of state power." Therefore, technically neither of the draft laws which the Duma will consider runs counter to the Constitution.

Rybkin himself favors the first draft. In particular, the Duma speaker cited an "impermissible" provision in the second draft whereby his Senate counterpart will be "unchangeable." He said that deliberations of "a Federation Council that operates on an ad hoc basis and convenes not more than 10 times a year should not be steered by a permanent speaker—these functions should be performed by all deputies on a rotating basis." (It should be recalled, as a matter of fact, that the Constitution unequivocally calls for "the Federation Council chairman be elected by deputies from among themselves.")

It is quite evident that the main difference between the existing draft laws boils down precisely to the way the upper chamber of parliament should be formed—on the basis of elections (albeit with a considerably narrower electoral base) or on a nomenklatura basis by "ex officio" members. So, by throwing his weight behind the first draft law, the speaker unequivocally objects to an "unpredictable" system for forming the Federation Council and thus includes himself among advocates of "political stability and continuity."

Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko has been telling the deputies nearly from the current parliament's inception that, "in his judgment," the Constitution calls precisely for the "ex officio" formation of the upper chamber. Since a majority of the incumbent senators are representatives of local authorities anyway, it will evidently not take him long to convince them of the advantages of extending their terms of office automatically.

The respective draft, which will probably be backed by a majority of deputies, has one uncertain provision, however: a phrase about popular elections for heads of local administrations who make up the Federation Council. A few months ago the president issued an edict imposing "a moratorium" on elections for local administration heads "until the end of the transition period," provided for in the current Constitution. According to the text of the Fundamental Law, the transition period ends on 12 December with the holding of elections for the State Duma; this of course completely rules out any possibility of electing local administration chiefs "upon the expiration of the transition period" and forming the Federation Council concurrently with the State Duma on 12 December. Hence, to all appearances, the upper chamber of parliament is not going to be "renewed" this year at all.

Duma Imposes Moratorium on Black Sea Fleet Reduction

LD0704192495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian lower house, State Duma, adopted a draft law "On the Moratorium on Unilateral Reduction of the Black Sea Fleet" on Friday. The law freezes all reductions of the fleet's naval, marine and aviation units and coastal facilities, as well as their transfer to Ukraine, until Russia and Ukraine settle all problems connected with the division of the fleet.

The draft must still be approved by the parliament's upper house, Federation Council and signed into law by President Boris Yeltsin.

The draft law was proposed by Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Duma Committee for Affairs of the CIS and Liaison With Compatriots.

Zatulin, who is also chairman of the Duma Commission on the Black Sea Fleet, had earlier delivered a report about a visit by members of the commission to Crimea and Sevastopol on March 26-28. He told deputies, specifically, that "manifestations of unfriendly, at times outright hostile, attitude to deputies of the Duma were shown by the Ukrainian authorities from the very beginning of the visit".

The analysis of meetings and consultations convinced members of the commission that problems of the Black Sea Fleet cannot be viewed apart from the overall developments in the region of its basing, particularly since the time the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet adopted reported decisions on the Crimea, Zatulin said. Members of the commission believe it would be premature to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Ukraine until the problems of the status of Sevastopol are ultimately solved.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Elders in Samashki Reportedly Executed

LD0704172095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok April 7 TASS—Elders of the Samashki populated locality were shot to death by Dudayev militants this noon for assuring Federal troops of no resistance, military sources in Mozdok told ITAR-TASS.

Samashki, located near the Chechen-Ingush administrative border, has been blocked by the Federal troops of Russia.

After the execution, local residents insisted on another meeting with the Federal troops command. Some 150 people came to the north-eastern outskirt of the settlement and requested the command representatives to evacuate civilians from Samashki. ITAR-TASS so far has no information about latest developments.

Russian Troops Attempt To Take Samashki

LD0804091995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our first report is from the conflict zone in Chechnya. The Russian army resumed shelling the village of Samashki in the west of the republic this morning, Andrey Ginusov, who is a member of Sergey Kovalev's group of human rights activists, reported to our station from the site:

[Begin Ginusov recording] A gun-shelling of the village continues, with multiple rocket launchers being used. According to eyewitnesses, fires were burning in the village all night and morning. Many people have been killed. The village leaders are appealing to the military authorities to allow a group of refugees to enter the village in the next hour or hour and a half and to let the wounded and dead be collected. The units of the Russian Interior Ministry tried to enter the village from the direction of Sernovodskoye, the railway station, and Achkhoy-Martan, but have so far failed to achieve this. [end recording]

The human rights campaigners deny the statement of the Russian military that [Chechen] defenders shot at the elders of the village of Samashki on Friday. According to eyewitnesses, the firing came from a post of the Interior Ministry troops.

Yesterday the Russian army continued shelling a number of populated points in the west and south of Chechnya. According to preliminary information revealed to our radio station by Chechen Press Minister Movladi Udugov, some 40 civilian residents were killed in the republic's mountain villages and several dozen were wounded.

Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of General Staff for the defense of Chechnya, spoke on local television on Friday. He rejected the assertions of Russian leaders that the Chechen resistance has been broken. Maskhadov said that the real war in Chechnya is only just beginning.

Further on Effort To Control Samashki

LD0804120395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1153 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The situation in the Chechen Republic remained tense by this morning, ITAR-TASS reported from Mozdok situated in neighbouring North Ossetia.

According to information from military sources, federal troops now continue a battle against separatist leader Dudayev's gunmen in the area of Samashki town situated west of the Chechen capital Groznyy. Federal troops suffered insignificant losses during this operation.

ITAR-TASS correspondent in Ingushetia Ruslan Maisigov also confirmed in his report that federal troops stepped up their combat operations in the area of Samashki over the past two days.

According to the reporter, Samashki whose residents remained at their homes overnight, was shelled by artillery and bombed by warplanes. Shell explosions were heard even in Ingush capital Nazran.

In connection with these events on the border with Ingushetia, Ingush President Ruslan Aushev requested today medics in his republic as well as representatives from the Russian Red Cross and the International Red Cross Committee [ICRC] to take urgent measures on rendering medical aid to Samashki people, their evacuation and hospitalisation, if need be.

ITAR-TASS learnt from the press centre of federal troops in the Chechen Republic, which is situated in Mozdok, that there is no trend for stabilising the situation in Chechnya.

Refugees continue to flee to eastern areas of Chechnya. Gunmen also worm their way there under the guise of refugees.

The commanding officers of a Russian formation had a meeting with elders from the villages of Meskety, Zamat-Yurt, Betti-Mokhi and others. Elders said at the meeting that residents decided to set up self-defence groups to prevent Dudayev's gumen from coming to those villages.

They also said that villagers will not interfere with an advance of federal troops and are ready to surrender combat materiel they have. Representatives from other villages, including Verkhny and Nizhnyy Suvorov-Yurt, Novogroznensky and Isti-Su, also made such statements to the command of federal troops.

Russian Troops Enter Northern Samashki

LD0804125895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Combat action in Chechnya is currently at its highest in the western part of the republic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Andrey Gonusov, a member of a group of human rights activists acting as observers, has reported to us from the site on the developments in one of the populated points in the region.

[Gonusov] A column of infantry combat vehicles of the Russian Interior Ministry has succeeded in entering the northern section of the Chechen village of Samashki. The southern outskirts of the village are still being held by the local residents defending the village. This part of the village is being fired upon from guns and multiple rocket launcher. Most of this area is on fire. According to eyewitnesses, many villagers have been killed or wounded. Women who were trying to evacuate some heavily wounded people from Samashki were sent back by special-purpose troops.

Federal Troops Complete Samashki Operation

LD0804164795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, 8 Apr—Federal troops have successfully completed the operation in the area of the Samashki settlement. As a result of fighting that went on for many hours, more than 130 Dudayev's supporters were killed and 124 taken prisoner. Three settlements where the enemy's major forces were deployed—Samashki, Davydenko, and Novyy Sharoy—have been entirely cleared of militants. ITAR-TASS has learned this from the press center of the command of the united grouping of the federal troops in the Chechen Republic.

On 7 April an ultimatum was made to Dudayev's supporters in the area of Samashki, Davydenko, and Novyy Sharoy to give in weapons voluntarily, but the militants did not meet it. Moreover, Dudayev's supporters shot dead a group of local residents who intended to hold talks with representatives of the federal troops command.

The federal troops undertook an operation against Dudayev's supporters after 450 civilians, mainly women and children, had been evacuated from the settlements, the press center said.

Samashki Residents Describe Assault

AU1004122295 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By Nikolai Topuria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Samashki, Russia, April 10 (AFP)—Residents of this small Chechen village captured by Russian troops recounted with horror Monday how the Russians burnt their homes, killed civilians and committed other atrocities in their assault.

"They shouted from in front of the house if anyone was inside and if we were Chechens," said Malika Mayerbolova, 42, who was among 11 residents being evacuated Monday by the Russian ministry for emergencies. "I told them yes, that there was a woman and two elderly people inside. They then threw a grenade and both my parents were killed."

She said all the men in the village—which now has 1,000 residents compared to 13,000 before the war—were arrested or executed by the Russians who captured the village on Saturday.

Sitting next to her in the truck transporting the injured out of the region, Ayshat Israilova, her arms covered with burns, recounted how Russian soldiers doused her home with petrol and set it on fire despite the fact that there were people inside. She said all the men trying to flee the inferno were arrested.

The two women said that the soldiers, who since January had met with fierce resistance in Samashki, showed proof of "unlimited cruelty" in capturing the village Saturday.

Israilova said one elderly woman was severely burned after being assured by Russian soldier that she could reenter her home. But as soon as she did so, the house, already doused with petrol, was set aflame and the woman barely managed to escape.

Another evacuee, Satsita Arseymirsoyeva, 44, said she managed to rescue her baby only thanks to a Moslem Russian soldier who intervened on her behalf.

She said her husband was carrying the child as the couple tried to flee and Russian soldiers initially prevented her from recovering the baby.

Meanwhile soldiers Monday were still blocking entry into the ravaged village, including to the Red Cross.

As a result groups of people gathered at the nearest control post seeking news of relatives or friends.

Among them was a young Chechen fighter dressed in civilian clothes. The man, who would only give his first name, Timur, said he fled the town Saturday when Russian tanks broke through rebel defense lines.

He said the intensity of the assault was probably due to the fact that the Russians suffered heavy losses during a previous attempt to capture the town.

People fleeing the village at the weekend said most of the rebels had sought refuge in forests nearby. Some residents also said that in the last hours before the village fell, separatist fighters killed several village elders who wanted them to leave the city in order to save it from destruction.

On Monday, Russian artillery guns were concentrating their assault on two villages in southern Chechnya in order to cut off access to Shatoy, one of the last Chechen strongholds.

The villages targeted were Chir-yurt and Duba-Yurt, 30 and 35 kilometers south of Groznyy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian forces marched into the breakaway republic early December to crush a three-year-old independence drive.

Dudayev Controls 'Mainly' Mountainous Areas

LD0804134395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, April 8 (Interfax)—Dudayev forces keep controlling areas with 20 percent of Chechnya's overall population, the commander of the federal army group in the Chechen republic Colonel-General Anatoliy Kulikov told Interfax. Kulikov was referring mainly to Chechnya's mountainous areas. "No illegal armed groupings have been left in the remaining part of the republic," Kulikov said.

Earlier, the director of the federal counterintelligence service Sergey Stepashin told Interfax in Groznyy that "the federal authorities are taking resolute action to avert the infiltration of neighboring regions, in particular Dagestan, by Dudayev militants."

Refugees Claim Mountain Villages Bombed

AU1004085395 Paris AFP in English 0814 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vedeno, Russia, April 10 (AFP)—Russian planes bombed mountains above the village of Shatoi in southern Chechnya, refugees from the village 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of the capital Groznyy, reported Monday.

The refugees said they did not know if there were any casualties.

Meanwhile other refugees fleeing the plains for the neighbouring republic of Dagestan said Russian artillery shelled around the villages of Chir-Yurt and Duba-Yurt, 30 and 35 kilometres (18 and 21 miles) south of Groznyy, overnight to Monday.

Russian forces are concentrating their fire on the villages, the last two on the main route to Shatoy, because seizing them would isolate Shatoy, leaving it cut off by all except a few barely- driveable mountain roads.

The Shatoy region is the home of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev whom the Russians seek.

Earlier Russian warplanes staged bombing raids in the mountainous region of Nozhay-Yurt in the east of the republic, while tanks were seen firing three or four shells at houses in Mairtup, 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of Groznyy.

Most Chechen rebels fighters have fled to the Caucasus mountains following the fall of their cities to Russian forces who marched into the republic early December to crush a three-year-old independence drive.

Many village elders are now trying to make deals with Russian local military commanders to save their villages from devastation.

Bamut Possibly Federal Troops' Next Target

LD0804191695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1742 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran April 8 TASS—It is not excluded that the settlement of Bamut, 40 kilometers south-west of Groznyy, will be the next target of the Russian federal troops in Chechnya. The settlement is housing a stronghold of Dudayev militants, refugees from Samashki told ITAR-TASS today.

The refugees saw four armored columns of the federal troops moving today in direction of Bamut.

Federal Headquarters in Groznyy Attacked

LD0804115195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1119 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, 8 Apr—There are people in the Chechen capital who cannot accept that peaceful and normal life is coming back to Groznyy.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was today told by a senior employee of the Territorial Directorate of Federal Authorities in the Chechen Republic that last night there was an attempt to attack the building in which this territorial directorate, the government of national revival and the Chechen committee of national accord are situated. The building is in the center of Groznyy. An exchange of fire from sub-machine guns went on for three hours and then the attackers disappeared. There are no casualties.

According to unconfirmed information, last night there was fighting in the area of the Groznyy airport.

Dudayev Forces' Attacks in Groznyy Detailed

LD0904140195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0845 GMT 9 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia, April 9 TASS—Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters do not abandon attempts to step up their sabotage and terrorist activities. Small groups of militants made six arson attacks against the buildings of schools and state institutions in Groznyy, and fired on several positions of Federal forces in south-western districts of the city over the past 24 hours, a spokesman at the Federal Counter-intelligence Service's [FSB] public relations center told ITAR-TASS here on Sunday.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Militants also attacked posts of Federal forces. Similar actions were undertaken by militants in other populated areas in Chechnya as well.

However, information reaching here from various sources indicates that the restoration of Federal authorities' control over the central areas of the Chechen Republic has resulted in a decline in the morale of a considerable proportion of the Dudayev militants. A large percentage of losses in manpower and materiel, the growing shortage of food reserves, material and technical means, ammunition and a trained reserve has led to almost complete cessation of enrollment of volunteers to Dudayev forces.

The parents and relatives of young people, who were recently mobilised into the unlawful armed formations, are taking measures to find and bring them back home.

Kremlin's Compromise With Luzhkov Viewed

MK0804083695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 2

[Andrey Maryanin report in the "Accord" column: "The Conflict Between the Kremlin and City Hall Seems To Be Over. The Former Chief of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate Will Be Co-opted Into the City Government"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to a reliable source, the conflict between the federal and city authorities, which resulted from the removal of two chiefs of power structures—the Prosecutor's Office and the Main Internal Affairs Directorate—and which agitated Moscow, has been successfully resolved. [passage omitted]

Signs are that it was decided that Ponomarev and Pankratov will have to accept the role of scapegoats and resign voluntarily, but that equally prestigious posts will be found for them. At the same time the mayor was promised that he will not be forced to accept unamenable people to fill the vacancies. And so it happened. Ponomarev wrote a resignation request and Luzhkov nominated and approved Sergey Gerasimov, Ponomarev's former deputy, to replace him. The ex-prosecutor himself is now being tipped for the chief auditor of the Russian Federation.

As for the former Moscow chief of police, on 4 April the Russian Federation Supreme Court postponed consideration of the mayor's suit, because General Pankratov was ill. As SEGODNYA found out, the next court hearing on this case may not take place because chances are that the former chief of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate will also voluntarily submit his resignation, and Militia General Nikolay Kulikov, loyal to Moscow and to Yuriy Luzhkov, will be appointed in his place. Pankratov will, in all likelihood, get a portfolio in the Moscow city government. According to informal reports from the corridors of federal power, a few days ago Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin received a letter from the Moscow mayor, proposing, in view of "the worsening crime situation, to introduce in the Moscow city government the post of deputy premier for liaison with law enforcement bodies." So far Pankratov is the only candidate for this post.

'First-Ever' TV Footage of Pechora Early Warning Station

MM0604102095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 31 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Pechora early warning station by V. Sidorenko and D. Biketov, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [190913] [Sidorenko over exterior of Pechora early warning station, footage attributed to VoyenTV] This military installation is being shown on Russian television for the first time. It is the Pechora installation, a complex belonging to the Missile and Space Defense Troops, which are part of the country's Air Defense Forces.

The officers who operate this complex call it the president's eyes and ears. It was this missile-attack warning center—which covers the northern and, partly, the northwestern sector—which monitored the launch and path of the Norwegian meteorological rocket. Although the complex is automated, there are a number of difficulties in maintaining the instruments and equipment at requisite operational levels.

[V. Shishlo, missile-attack warning center commander, identified by caption] These difficulties are caused by the disruption of ties with military-industrial complex enterprises, insufficient funding, and failure to resolve social problems affecting the life of the officer corps.

[Sidorenko] What are the prospects of such complexes remaining viable?

[V. Smirnov, commander of Missile and Space Defense Troops, identified by caption, addressing journalists] The construction of a further four powerful complexes of this kind was begun. Of those, two have already been destroyed. At the request of Ukraine the Mukachevo facility was transferred to them and has already been destroyed. And the construction of the second, in Skrunda, has been discontinued. [191025] [video shows exterior of phased-array installation; extensive footage of interior with closeups of equipment; Shishlo, Smirnov interviews; dish aerials in the foreground; phased-array installation in middle distance]

New Administrative Districts for Moscow Proposed

MM0704160295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Ten Prefectures Will Be Preserved in the Capital, But 128 Municipal Rayons Will Appear"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft law on regularizing the administrative-territorial division of Moscow, prepared by the local executive power, is being submitted to the capital's City Duma.

A. Petrov, deputy premier of the city government, explained to IZVESTIYA's correspondent that the document will eliminate the discrepancies which have accumulated in recent years between the division of Moscow's territory that actually exists and the division into districts that existed previously. At the same time the boundaries of all city-forming structures are rigorously assigned. Their multipage description will form an official addition to the Charter of the City of Moscow which is being prepared. Incidentally, the capital is not getting a single additional hectare of land.

"Despite the fact that 10 administrative districts headed by prefects and 132 municipal districts (responsibility for them lies with subprefects) were formed in Moscow almost four years ago, no one has formally abolished the division into the 33 former rayons—Kiyevskiy, Oktyabrskiy, Pervomayskiy, etc.," the deputy premier pointed out. "This confuses Muscovites themselves and visitors to the capital, while employees of local administrative organs lack clear-cut responsibility for a definite sector, district, apartment block, and the adjacent yards, grounds, and vacant plots."

Moreover, small "islands" of apartment blocks, standing apart, as it were, have formed on the tracts which are being built up from scratch on the outskirts of the city. These also need to be allocated to particular administrative management structures, particularly now, on the eve of the election campaigns.

So, under the proposed draft law, everything located inside the Moscow ring road, as well as the so-called reserve territories (now being built upon) adjacent to this road on the other side—Mitino, Kurkino, Solntsevo, Novoperedelkino, Severnoye and Yuzhnoye Butovo, Kosino, Novokosino, and others—are assigned to Moscow. There are also formations which do not have a common border with the city's main territory. These are Zelenograd—a separate administrative district—and the worker settlements of Vnukovo, Vostochnyy, and Nekrasovka, which henceforth receive the status of municipal rayons of Moscow.

It is proposed, in all, to form 128 of these rayons in the capital, united, as now, in 10 administrative districts (prefectures). In conclusion A. Petrov particularly emphasized that the city's new territorial division will in no way affect the distribution of the population's usual social and domestic services.

It will not be necessary, for example, to change the savings bank and the health center which serve you, to transfer children to a different school, or to find out the new address of the REU [?rayon housing administration] and the social security department. The law on administrative-territorial division and the Charter of the City of Moscow are expected to be adopted before the City Duma breaks up for this year's summer recess.

Stepashin Meets Press After Talks With Tatarstan KGB

954F2008A Kazan RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, by Sh. Maratov; place and date not given: "How Do We Curb Crime?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN has already reported, an expanded conference of the Collegium of our republic's Committee for State Security took place the end of last week involving the participation of Russian FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] Director S. Stepashin. At the end of the conference, he met with journalists from the Russian and Tatar press.

[Stepashin] I want to stipulate right away that the arrival in Kazan of the FSK director together with a group of heads of its major subdivisions is not related to any extraordinary circumstances. The issue we discussed today—on implementation of the Russian Federation president's edict on intensifying the struggle against organized crime and banditry—is extremely important for our service, and the Tatarstan KGB is actively working to accomplish the tasks set before it. I also want to say that your KGB is one of our strong territorial directorates and we have no reason to be dissatisfied with its activity. Looking at the press releases you have distributed, it has been possible to get an idea of the nature and results of activity both of the Tatarstan Republic KGB and of the FSK as a whole.

[Maratov] In connection with the events in Chechnya, you stated in one interview that the FSK is engaged in identifying persons in the highest echelons of authority who have in one way or another assisted the Dudayev regime. How is this investigative work going? What obstacles have come up in this regard?

[Stepashin] An investigation is underway. Serious incidents have been uncovered involving the participation of a number of responsible officials in supplying Dudayev with oil, arms, financial "nourishment"... There are certain obstacles, chiefly related to a lack of conformance of provisions of the outdated Criminal-Procedural Code to incidents of economic crime and corruption uncovered. Our investigators and specialists have a great deal of work ahead of them. I can solidly assert that there are certain gentlemen in high places who will find themselves in court!

[Maratov] The central newspapers are reporting that a new reorganization phase has begun in the FSK...

[Stepashin] This is not an "ordinary reorganization," as certain of the mass media are saying in their attempts to pour oil on the fire. The FSK is being transformed into

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Federal Security Service. This is an adjustment, bringing the name of the service and its structures into conformance with its mission in ensuring the country's real security. This is not limited to counterintelligence, but also involves the fight against terrorism, banditry, and organized crime, and a number of other functions, including—and this is very important—warning and prevention of all these phenomena... Under conditions of a legal vacuum and the currently existing deficiencies in legislation, prevention is sometimes the only true and effective weapon in the fight against various kinds of vermin. And the return of the investigations apparatus to the Special Operations Directorate means truly strengthening the organs of state security, especially given today's environment in the country.

[Maratov] How do you assess the demands of certain national-political forces that Tatarstan's KGB, courts, and law enforcement organs be taken out from under Russian Federation jurisdiction?

[Stepashin] Either they do not understand what we are engaged in, or (smiling) the Tatarstan KGB is operating poorly with them. How can we disrupt the unity of the special services, a unified legal space?! A criminal commits a crime in Kazan, for example, and "disappears" into Ulyanovsk—how can we be expected to continue the effort, to expose him and catch him? It is no chance occurrence, therefore, that the special services of republics of the former USSR got together recently and reached agreement on a whole range of issues—on a unified data bank, establishment of a permanently operating council that will coordinate the efforts of our special services. No one came out a winner as a result of the collapse of our service's former system—everyone lost.

Shaymiyev Addresses Tatarstan's Legislature

954F2008B Kazan KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 4 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Speech delivered 30 March 1995 by M. Shaymiyev to the first session of the Tatarstan State Soviet: "The Mandate of Trust From the Populace Must Be Vindicated"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

On the Election of People's Deputies

Today's session of the State Soviet constitutes unique confirmation of the fact that the election campaign in the republic has basically ended. I believe we can draw several political conclusions in connection with the end of this extremely important campaign.

First of all, the elections were held in organized fashion everywhere, in strict observance of the law, without any serious violations, and in a tranquil political environment. At the same time, there were attempts on the part of certain destructive forces to agitate the environment, but once again these did not win the support of the populace.

Secondly, despite the adverse socioeconomic situation, republic voters displayed great political maturity and civic responsibility.

Thirdly, a broad opportunity was presented for the first time to show the worth of our laws on elections directly to the voters and other participants in the election process, who took full advantage of this beginning with the process of nominating candidates for people's deputy.

Fourthly, the elections pointed out the weakness of political parties and other social organizations in our present phase of development. In the majority of districts, candidates nominated by parties and social organizations failed to amass the required number of popular votes. There are only 10 such deputies in the parliament—just over 8 percent.

The election results also showed that our election laws, no matter how democratic, do not yet guarantee that the interests of all segments of the populace will be reflected in the representational organ. This applies to our newly elected State Soviet, whose composition does not fully reflect the social and ethnic structure of the republic population.

We all understand that a multiparty system is an extremely important and inalienable component of a civil society. Despite its complex and contradictory aspects, the multiparty system is still moving towards proper establishment. A graphic example of this can be seen in the activity of parties and movements in the election campaign, as they intensified their ties with the populace and acquired certain political experience.

In standing up for the establishment of a democratic society, I see the need for interaction in the future between political parties and movements and the organs of state authority. Constructive cooperation and partnership—this is our strategy. And the president is ready for this.

The participation of parties and social organizations in the election campaign, especially those with extreme positions, and the great degree of selectivity in most electoral districts brought a sharp edge to the preelection fray, which was brutal and uncompromising in certain districts. Unfortunately, there were incidents of improper conduct on the part of certain candidates as well.

The preelection struggle once again convinces us of the correctness of the centrist policy being conducted in the republic.

Not yielding to empty promises, our populace has displayed its maturity. I would especially like to note that no one successfully managed to play the ethnic factor.

As expected, the heads of administrations played an active role in the election campaign. However, opinions to the effect that the law on elections was adopted only in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their interests and that they would have an easy time during the election campaign were completely refuted. The exact opposite took place. I have spoken about this repeatedly. In the absolute majority of districts where heads of administration were running, the preelection struggle was most intense and took place, as a rule, under conditions of fierce competition, especially in Kazan. The heads of administration of Sarmanovskiy and Spasskiy Rayons did not survive this struggle. They did not win the necessary number of votes and were unsuccessful in every soviet in their territory. Today, in accordance with the Constitution, other people have assumed these positions.

The support shown by a majority of voters for heads of administration is an important indicator of approval of the policy being carried out in the republic. The mandate of trust received from the populace, their hopes and expectations must be vindicated by responsible effort. Here it is impossible to rely only on control on the part of the government and the presidential structure. Under conditions of developing democracy, control on the part of the representational organs of authority assumes an ever-increasing role, as deputies of rayon and city soviets directly express the interests of the electorate.

I would like to make special note of the fact that combining the posts of head of administration and chairman of the Soviet of People's Deputies must not in any way lead to attempts to intrude into the sphere of activity of the soviets. The authority of the body of deputies, of the representational organs, must be supported. Especially considering the form of simultaneously held positions we have. And it is our task to raise the work of the representational organs, the activity of the entire body of deputies in the localities, to a new qualitative level.

On Mutual Relations With Russia

Having signed one year ago—on 15 February—the treaty with Russia, Tatarstan thereby secured a formula for mutual relations with federal organs as the basis for the republic's sociopolitical stability. We stood up for our Constitution. This was a truly historic step signifying the beginning of reform of the nation-state structuring not just of Tatarstan, but of the Russian Federation. We cannot relax at this point, however. It is no secret that there are opponents to the treaty in Russian political circles who openly advocate that it be ignored. Moreover, political leaders have emerged who are calling for the elimination of republics and their conversion into administrative entities. People's Deputy F. Safiullin spoke about this today. A Russian Federation law is being drawn up on demarcation of authority which should, in the concept of its authors, essentially alter the nature of relations between the center and republics and with the remaining Federation entities, as envisaged in the Federative Treaty. The federalization and democratization of Russia's state structures are proceeding with great difficulty.

Under these conditions, in our view, the position of Tatarstan, coordinated with the interests of other republics, may become a positive stabilizing factor in Russia's political life in the future. We must apply every effort in continuing the process of democratization.

I would also like to emphasize quite definitively that the treaty is simply the beginning of a long path in the consolidation of relations between Tatarstan and Russia. The treaty requires the support of public opinion both within the country and outside its borders. At the same time, it requires legislative backing as well. Certain of its articles must be supported through the adoption of a number of laws by the State Soviet in its present composition. Under conditions where attempts are made by certain political forces to change Russia's principles of state structuring, our pillar of support is that formula of sovereignty that has been secured in the treaty and in the Constitution of the Tatarstan Republic.

You in the press know my position with respect to various kinds of speculative aspirations. And I have no doubt but that the State Soviet and its chairman, V. Likhachev, share this position of the president and will stand up for it in the legal, civilized way that is characteristic of our parliament. I can confirm once again that Tatarstan and its multiethnic people will never consent to attempts to change its national-territorial principle of state structuring.

In the post-Soviet space, we find ourselves virtually the only republic that has been able, without bloodshed, using civilized methods, to find the resolution to a whole package of interstate problems. The West is showing interest in our approaches, calling them "the Tatarstan model." This interest should be supported so that the peacemaking image of Tatarstan becomes a factor in the political and economic development of the republic. Dealings in the international arena take place only with a stable partner, one with a reliable authority and predictable policy. Only in this case will we be able to count on the credits, investments, and modern technologies so necessary to the economy of our republic.

I must state quite definitively that foreign policy is for us becoming an important factor in resolving economic problems. To date we have been living in a relatively closed economic space. But today borders are open for broad international cooperation. Foreign firms have already been taking advantage of this, shipping in their products and filling our store shelves to abundance. While we find ourselves in a situation where we often produce output no worse than imported commodities, but are unable to sell it on the external market. We have become open to the world, but it turns out the world is not yet open to us.

On the Economy

It should be noted that certain positive trends have been outlined in the industry of our republic, although production decline continues. Production in January was

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

7.9 percent down from the level for January of last year, while this index over a two-month period was 6.8 percent (2.7 percent in Russia).

The number of major industrial enterprises successfully adapting to market conditions and increasing their production output grew in January-February 1995 by a factor of 1.5, as compared with October-November of last year.

Analysis shows that the most significant influence on decreased production volume indices in republic industry is being exerted by the KamAZ joint-stock company and a number of enterprises in the defense complex.

The critical situation that has taken shape in the republic's light industry is a source of anxiety. This sector's share of the total volume of industrial production in the republic has dropped to almost half its level of four years ago.

One economic stimulation measure used to increase livestock production output was the significant rise in purchase prices during the third 10-day period of March. This resulted in further retail price increases for certain varieties of food products. Retail prices for certain commodities became the same here as with our neighbors. But as you know, the government is also carrying out social protection measures—the minimum wage was raised, the supplement to needy segments of the population was increased, and pay for workers in the budget sphere was raised. State organs of authority of the republic will continue in future to constantly monitor the uninterrupted provision of foodstuffs to the populace.

As a result of the measures undertaken, we succeeded in preventing a landslide drop in production volumes of the most important food products.

In our opinion, the package of recent edicts of the Tatarstan Republic president aimed at stimulating the development of entrepreneurial activity and developing the market infrastructure, signed in January-March of this year, is of exceptionally great significance in improving the economy, accelerating reforms, and privatizing property. Organs of authority in the localities and on the republic level must knowledgeably strive to implement these normative acts that are so necessary as we advance to the market.

In February the average wage rose 16.4 percent, while the average growth of consumer prices was 14.7 percent, and that of the subsistence minimum—13.9 percent. The average wage in February amounted to 296,700 rubles. A most significant economic measure in providing social protection to the republic populace was the adoption at the beginning of this year of a law increasing the minimum wage effective 1 February 1995.

One economic index characterizing the standard of living of the population is the ratio of the average monthly wage per worker to the monthly subsistence minimum. In Tatarstan this index was 2.1 in January, 2.15 in February. The January index was only 1.5 for Russia overall.

Polarization of population incomes took place at a somewhat lower rate in the republic than on the average across Russia. In 1994, the income ratio of the top 10 percent of the population to that of the bottom 10 percent was 9.2 in the Tatarstan Republic, while for Russia this index was 15.1.

An important task the republic faces in 1995 is stabilization of the economy on the basis of accelerating its reform.

With the aim of creating favorable conditions for investments of foreign capital and the development of ties with foreign countries, the president issued an edict approving the initiative of a number of major enterprises, joint-stock companies, and banks on organizing the Tatarstan Republic Investment Finance Corporation. About 100 investment projects are presently being scrutinized; 60 have undergone expert review, 20 of which have been adopted by foreign investors.

The Tatarstan Republic Law on Mortgages should be adopted in the near future—one of the most important premises for creation of the housing and real estate market in general. Such efforts were examined in detail at the republic conference on construction which took place yesterday.

A situation has developed in the financial market where many companies conduct advertising on a massive scale and provide various types of financial services, including the attraction of citizens' financial assets on a commercial basis. In a number of instances, the absence of proper control on the part of state organs has led to a situation where dubious companies are engaged in this, carrying out such activity in violation of existing legislation and deceiving the populace, thereby causing legitimate complaints. The Commission on Securities and the Shares Market, recently instituted by special presidential edict, must ensure proper order in the financial market in a joint effort with other appropriate state organs. In this regard, state organs of authority must provide suitable competition of various kinds for financial companies, attracting monetary assets of the population through the issue of state securities. We spoke about this at the recent housing construction conference.

We must complete development of the Tatarstan economic model presently being finalized by a large group of republic specialists and scholars. American experts with great experience in developing such programs in a number of foreign countries have also been enlisted in this effort.

We have at our disposal everything necessary to stabilize and improve the republic economy—highly qualified personnel, material resources, and intellectual potential.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The resolution of all problems related to stabilization of the economy will require continued accelerated development of the proper legislative base. Here it is up to you, esteemed deputies of the State Soviet.

The State Soviet is also faced with the task of examining and reforming the structures of republic organs of government, and issues related to formation of the Cabinet of Ministers. I would like to note in this regard that the election of the Tatarstan Republic president is not far away. In my view, therefore, it would be advisable, if the State Soviet does not object, to form the Cabinet of Ministers after the presidential election takes place in the republic. It is not ruled out in this regard, of course, that changes may be made to the composition of the government prior to this time.

In conclusion I would like to express the hope of achieving constructive, fruitful, joint work with the new body of deputies for the welfare of our people.

Samara Oblast Officials View Anticrime Efforts

954F1978B Samara SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 95 p 2

[News conference given by Samara Governor K. Titov and Yu. M. Borodulin, plenipotentiary of the president in Samara Oblast, reported by Margarita Zhutova; place and date not given: "The Governor Is Not Responsible for 'Agropolicy.' Neither Is the President's Representative"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **On the other hand, both of them bear responsibility to a certain extent for the state of law and order on the territory. And, therefore, they want the protection of law and order organs in the province to work better. But in contrast to a majority of the population of the oblast, who desire the same thing, they also possess the mechanism and the levers to influence the situation substantially. An answer to the question "how specifically" was awaited by journalists at a news conference given by Governor K.A. Titov and Yu.M. Borodulin, plenipotentiary of the president in our oblast. The chief of the administration and the representative of the president came well-prepared for the correspondents of the local and mass media, having gotten "warmed up" in discussions at the just completed final conference of the coordination council of the legal organs under the oblast administration. They said:**

[Titov] The main reason the conference was convened was to investigate specifically whether the program adopted in the oblast for improving the work of law enforcement organs is having a real influence on the state of crime in the province. I did not perceive this influence. As always, there was talk about general trends and problems, but how the program worked—what it helped, and what it did not—I did not hear any such analysis.

We know where we should invest the taxpayers' resources in order to reduce the level of crime. But we should understand that money does not resolve everything. We have lost, for example, the strong support of public opinion. It seems that this is something from the previous rejected life. But after all, the usual and at one time perhaps discredited concept hides behind itself new and unquestionably positive phenomena. The Cossacks, for example, are prepared to join in the work of maintaining law and order. But in answer to these proposals I hear: "It is not necessary!..." Incidentally, the law also now permits the inclusion of such forces in the general process of law enforcement work—a resolution is possible at the local level. Why is there such nonacceptance?

The discussion at the conference led to one more conclusion. All these problems cannot be resolved without the direct and earnest participation of the heads of local administrations and local law enforcement organs. But they, in some measure, seemed to be removed from the province center and from the problems that we are resolving.

[Borodulin] The unquestionable usefulness of this final conference is not only that it carefully and attentively analyzed the activity of law enforcement organs, as well as their employees and the employees of the administration. Also the fact that with its unabated attention to the problem—through the mass media—it will get to know the people. And it will be able to express its ideas, assessments, and proposals. This is very valuable.

[Question] On the Listyev television program "Rush Hour," Boris Nemtsov, the governor of Nizhniy Novgorod, talked about the fact that significant budgetary infusions into the law enforcement sphere have resulted in a reduction in the level of crime in the region. He, of course, did not say what other budgetary sphere he "stripped" for the sake of achieving this objective. But it is not even a question of the experience of the residents of Nizhniy Novgorod, but something else—with respect to the law enforcement organs, whether any methods exist for the most effective use of resources. After all, in the final analysis one can give and one can sacrifice any resources for the fight against crime, and in the end not receive any kind of positive result.

[Titov] I do not share the point of view of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov. Even though he is my friend... My firm conviction is that resources should be allocated not only, let us put it this way, along a direct line to eradicate crime. But in no lesser amount for the development of an all-round character. Is there really anyone who is not troubled by the facts we are continuously encountering? Schoolboys say: "I do not want to study. Why? Because I already know how to earn a living."

He knows that he can stand at a traffic light and clean the windows of stopped cars for 3,000-5,000 rubles. He worked a little at the curb with a pail and a rag—yes, fine: He really did work a little, and he received 3,000-5,000. But the day after tomorrow he grows, and then what? He does not have a profession that is normal and in high demand on the labor market. Then where will he go?...

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Therefore, I consider the implementation of programs for the revival of technical clubs, fine arts and theatrical studios for children and minors, and amateur folk theaters no less important than support for the law enforcement programs from the oblast budget. We have always strongly objected to the transfer of the premises of such clubs, studios, and sections to commercial structures. And we are planning to return to an analysis of the situation in this sphere. I fully support the work of the oblast administration of culture regarding supporting such structures.

Another problem is also very serious: public education. Resources are also needed here—resources so that education will really be education. Indeed, so that upbringing will also not be forgotten.

[Borodulin] I would also like to forewarn both journalists and the reading public: What might outwardly look like an absolute achievement of Nizhniy Novgorod inhabitants is not always the case. There is also unbiased analysis. I fear that in the matter of the fight against crime, as in the general process of conducting reforms, Nizhniy Novgorod province cannot serve as an example for us to imitate. This is indicated by comparisons based on documents.

The concern, however, does not lie here. Indeed, Samara Oblast is among the top 10 most unfavorable in a criminal sense. There are also objective reasons—and no matter which way you turn, you cannot escape them: The oil and automobile business attract the criminal like a magnet. And, of course, we must spend more than we are spending now on maintaining and equipping law enforcement organs. But the state of the economy does not give us such capabilities.

Nevertheless it is self-evident: Society must spend even greater sums on the ethical formation of personality. But, again, where are the capabilities?

One thing can be added: Fortunately, we have not yet reached the level of American or Italian crime.

[Question] Where do the workers of law enforcement organs themselves see the main deficiencies in their activity and the causes that engender them?

[Titov] In everything, including in the nature of the reform itself. Indeed, commercialization causes an increase in crime. Of course, it was not difficult previously to "control" several specialized stores. The reasons are seen in a lot of things besides personal responsibility, unprofessionalism, etc. But we expect that law enforcement organs will begin not only to exact punishment, but also to forecast a situation and prepare for it.

There is one more eloquent example: No one has come to me as a member of the Federation Council with a legislative initiative. Does this mean that the legislative base is absolutely satisfactory? "Suddenly it becomes clear": The law does not give the needed support for the fight against crime. So, why are we silent?

[Borodulin] The workers of these organs should understand that evaluation of their activity in the final analysis is not built on the number of problems they cite at such conferences, but on really solved cases. Nevertheless, and this is no secret, many crimes that have wide public repercussion have not been solved to this day. As a matter of fact, organized crime is "slipping through our fingers." And no matter what is said, I see the main problem here not as a shortage of resources allocated to this sphere. But as the organization itself of the law enforcement system in Russia. I considered and still consider that it should be reformed cardinally. I am not referring here to the criminalization of the law enforcement sphere itself—but the question does exist. To put it briefly: I think the creation of an organization of the American FBI type could be the solution to the problem of both organized crime and corruption in the organs. I have written to the president about this.

[Question] The ordinary person's sense of unprotectedness against crime is intensified by contacts with all kinds of "investment structures." The people who trusted all kinds of Agropolicies feel themselves deceived as a result. And no one will stand up...

[Titov] We said, we are saying, and we will say as many times as is necessary: The administration did not answer, is not answering, and will not answer for the obligations of all kinds of "financial-investment structures." And references to credits and other support of the authoritative structures are not valid here. Yes, the administration gives credits, but always for the development of real business. In such a matter there can never be an increase of more than 10-12 percent; that is, at a level of the Savings Bank rates. In the Savings Bank, incidentally, 51 percent of the shares of stock belong to the state and, therefore, it will fulfill its obligations to the depositors for its share.

[Borodulin] Trust in various kinds of MMM's, Khoprams, and RDS's—this is our Russian mentality. When entering into relations with such companies a person should be aware that he is taking a risk, just like a player in a casino is taking a risk, and a player at the roulette table is taking a risk. Unfortunately, Lenya Golubkov will still be a "national hero" in Russia for a long time. [end Borodulin]

In concluding the report on the news conference, where nothing optimistic was heard "regarding the big picture," I must cite a truly positive fact published by the governor: The volume of production in Samara Oblast in January of this year was 110 percent of the volume of January of last year. Did it really move upward (spit three times and knock on wood!)? But there are these kind of indicators only in St. Petersburg.

Samara Oblast 1994 Socioeconomic Statistics Cited

954F1977A Samara SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 95 pp 5, 7

[Report by Samara Oblast State Statistics Committee: "The Socioeconomic Situation in Samara Oblast in 1994"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] The main result of last year was intensification of the process of economic reform and economic subjects' and the population's adaptation to market conditions. The voucher stage of privatization was completed, as a result of which 2,430 enterprises changed form of ownership from state to private. Proceeds from privatization of state property amounted to 81 billion rubles [R].

By the end of 1994, only 18 percent of all enterprises in industry remained fully state-owned; their output comprised 6.4 percent of total industrial output. The small business sector, which employs 4 percent of the economically active population, continued to grow, and the number of enterprises increased to 7,264.

Industry

As in Russia as a whole, the decline of production in the oblast has not been halted. However, in industry as a whole the intensity of production decline diminished by half as compared to the beginning of the year—from 28 to 13 percent.

As compared to 1993, the loss of work time caused by production stoppages and shifting to a shortened work schedule almost doubled and amounted to 6.6 million man-days, which is equivalent to completely idling all industry for two weeks. Over the year production stoppages were registered at one in every two or three enterprises; for this reason, 2,776 persons were laid off at enterprises, and more than 30,000 persons a month on average were on leave at management's initiative.

Industrial enterprises of all forms of ownership (exclusive of small enterprises with less than 50 employees and joint enterprises with the participation of foreign capital) produced R13.8 trillion worth of output in current prices.

The oblast failed to accomplish structural restructuring of industry and reorienting it toward production of consumer goods in 1994. The share of heavy industry in the oblast's total output remained at the 1993 level—92 percent, and that of food processing and light industry still did not exceed 10 percent.

At military-industrial complex enterprises, because of defense industry conversion, production of defense-related items declined by 28 percent. This was not accompanied, however, by an increase in the output of civilian goods—it dropped by half.

Twenty-one enterprise in the oblast were included in the state registry of monopoly enterprises.

Capital Construction

In 1994 oblast enterprises and organization perceptibly reduced investment activities. Only R2.4471 trillion in capital investment were utilized (63 percent).

There was a perceptible decline in investment in such sectors as electric power generation, machine-tool manufacturing, and light and food industries. There was some increase in investment in petroleum refining and the construction materials industry.

Expenditures on environmental protection and rational use of natural resources amounted to R45.3 billion, or about 3 percent of all expenditures on industrial construction.

The proportional share of expenditures on nonindustrial construction continues to increase. It comprised 43 percent of the total expenditure of funds in 1994.

In housing construction, 809,900 square meters of total living area (12,432 apartments) were put into use, which comprised 75 percent of last year's level. In rural areas, 302,200 square meters of housing were built, which is 1.6 times more than last year. The volume of housing built by individual developers increased 1.5-fold and amounted to 99,500 square meters.

Also put into use were: general education schools for 4,360 pupils; preschool facilities with 660 spaces; club facilities with 200 accommodations; 15 hospital beds and ambulatory-outpatient facilities for 540 visits; and a vocational school for 120 students.

In the city of Samara, an orphanage with 100 spaces was built (the customer—the capital construction administration of the city of Samara administration); in Tolyatti—a nursing home for the disabled and elderly, with 315 accommodations (the Tolyattistroyzakazchik company).

Also commissioned and put in operation were 929 km of gas lines, 24 km of heat-supply lines, and 1.8 km of sewage lines.

As of the end of December, 322 general contractor organizations of different forms of ownership were operating in the oblast. They performed R1.2402 trillion worth of nonsubcontracted work. Of the total volume of work performed, R936.7 billion worth (76 percent) went into construction and erection work, of which 36 percent was performed at industrial production facilities under construction, and 5 percent—at agro-industrial complex facilities.

The Agro-Industrial Complex

According to preliminary estimates, gross agricultural output declined in 1994 by 3 percent as compared to 1993.

The output of products of plant-growing at all categories of farms amounted to 2.0005 million tonnes of grain (84 percent of the 1993 level), 64,200 tonnes of sugar beet (38 percent), 96,500 tonnes of sunflower (81 percent), 474,800 tonnes of potatoes (86 percent), and 173,300 tonnes of field vegetables (116 percent). Private (peasant) farms produced 154,600 tonnes of grain (87 percent of the 1993 level), 1,700 tonnes of sugar beet (46

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

percent), 5,600 tonnes of sunflower for grain (94 percent), 2,200 tonnes of potatoes (a factor of three), and 1,500 tonnes of field vegetables (a factor of three).

The yield of main agricultural crops at all categories of farms was lower than last year, with the exception of potatoes and field vegetables.

Kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural enterprises created on their basis put into seed stocks 233,900 tonnes of grain and legume seed.

In the current year farms laid in 952,700 tonnes of feed units, which is 13 percent less than last year.

According to preliminary estimates, the output of main animal husbandry products declined at all categories of farms and amounted to 229,000 tonnes of livestock and poultry meat in live weight (86 percent of last year's level), 845,100 tonnes of milk (87 percent), 845.9 million units of hen's eggs (91 percent), and 1,509 tonnes of wool (in physical weight) (70 percent). The yield per cow amounted to 2,400 kg, or 222 kg less than last year.

As of 1 January 1995 the herd of cattle at all categories of farms numbered 763,800 head (87 percent of last year's level), including 325,600 cows (92 percent), 619,500 swine (87 percent), and 394,600 head of sheep and goats (73 percent).

According to preliminary estimates, people's personal plots (excluding private farms) in 1994 produced 88,200 tonnes of livestock and poultry meat in live weight (39 percent of the total output of all categories of farms), 350,400 tonnes of milk (41 percent), and 227.4 million units of eggs (27 percent).

Herd reproduction indicators deteriorated in 1994 with respect to all categories of productive livestock. Mortality increased in all categories of productive livestock.

Capital construction in the agro-industrial complex. Capital assets worth R125.8 billion have been commissioned in the agro-industrial complex sectors. Capital investment utilization amounted to R253.4 billion, of which construction and erection work accounted for R178.8 billion.

Transportation and Communications

The freight volume comprised 104.6 million tonnes (82 percent of the 1993 level).

In rail transportation, railcar demurrage in freight operations decreased over the year by 20 percent, and daily traffic per railcar increased by 1 percent.

Trains did not always run on schedule. At the railroad's Samara segment, 19 percent of freight trains, 5 percent of passenger trains, and 9 percent of suburban trains deviated from the schedule; at the Volga segment, respectively, 17 percent of freight trains, 3 percent of passenger, and 2 percent of suburban trains.

Automotive transport moved 58 million tonnes of freight, which is 26 percent less than last year. Intracity and suburban trips comprise the bulk of the volume; intercity transportation accounted for 11 percent.

Public automotive transportation enterprises accounted for 44 percent of all freight. The volume of traffic in public transportation declined by 40 percent.

Waterway transportation declined over the year by one-third. The greatest decline in the volume of traffic was registered with respect to chemical and mineral fertilizer, oil and petroleum products, and construction items.

Passenger traffic amounted to 9.1363 billion passenger-kilometers (92 percent).

Passenger traffic. Despite the high cost of tickets for air transportation, the timeliness and quality of service for passengers were not up to par. For instance, over the year 27 percent of flights on international lines were late; on domestic lines—13 percent; and commuter lines—8 percent. On international lines, flights were on average 1.8 hours late, on domestic—2.8 hours, and commuter lines—1.9 hours. Because of insufficient and poor maintenance of the rolling stock and financial difficulties, the situation with respect to public city and suburban transportation remains difficult.

About 5 percent of scheduled runs were not performed in fixed-route public bus transportation in 1994.

Communications. As of the end of the year, there were 414,000 primary telephones in the oblast—a 3 percent increase over the year. The number of pay phones in the city increased from 4,041 to 4,116, and rural phones decreased from 99 to 69.

The volume of postal services declined in all the main categories: 28 percent fewer letters, small packages, and parcels were sent than last year, 25 percent fewer cables, and 21 percent fewer money transfers. The volume of long-distance telephone calls increased by 7 percent. The volume of sales of newspapers and magazines—both by subscription and retail—also increased by 7 percent.

Financial Institutions

As of 1 January 1995, 34 commercial banks were operating in the oblast, as well as 587 offices of the Samara bank of the Russian Savings Bank, 49 insurance companies, and five exchanges.

Annual exchange turnover amounted to R53 billion. The greatest increase in goods flow was registered with respect to consumer goods and securities, the share of which increased, respectively, from 13 to 44 percent and from 4 to 11 percent.

In the second half of the year the volume of grain trading at the Samara Exchange amounted to R17.8 billion; in addition, R4.7 billion worth of grain futures was sold.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Foreign Economic Activities

In 1994 the volume of exports amounted to R4.4 trillion.

Among the exports were 1.9 million tonnes of ammonia (73 percent of total output), 1.1 million tonnes of oil (13 percent), 1.3 million tonnes of boiler oil (18 percent), 0.9 million tonnes of diesel fuel (16 percent), 197,000 passenger cars (37 percent), 24,000 tonnes of rubber (31 percent), and 441 metal-cutting machine tools (40 percent).

Tolyatti enterprises and organizations account for 79 percent of all exports, Novokuybyshevsk—11 percent, and Samara—10 percent.

Finances

According to current data on the results of 1994, oblast enterprises and organizations (including agriculture) earned R2.1 trillion in profits, including R1.4 trillion in industry. As compared to the corresponding period of last year, profit increased by 36 percent, including by 18 percent in industry. Over the same period, wholesale prices for industrial output increased threefold. As of 1 December, 12.7 percent of all enterprises posted a loss in the amount of R90.1 billion.

Accounts receivable of monitored industrial and agricultural enterprises and construction and transportation organizations as of 1 January amounted to R8.5 trillion, of which R3.1 trillion were past due. Customer debt comprises the greatest share of total past due receivables—R2.5 trillion.

Creditor debt as of 1 January amounted to R7.7 trillion, including R3.6 trillion that were past due. A considerable proportion of past due creditor debt remains in the oil refining (71.2 percent) and chemical and petrochemical (76.7 percent) industries; machine-building and metalworking (62.7 percent); and timber and woodworking industry (41.1 percent).

The unsettled state of mutual payments and difficult financial situation of enterprises are the main cause of untimely payments to the budget. As of 1 January, arrears in payments to the budget in industry, agriculture, transportation, and capital construction alone amounted to R1.0123 trillion.

The Consumer Goods Market

In 1994, R8.8336 trillion worth of consumer goods was produced, which comprised 79 percent of last year's output.

Production of foodstuffs declined by 16 percent. The output of bread and bakery items fell by 13 percent, margarine—by 15 percent, macaroni items—by 19 percent, meat—by 22 percent, cereals—by 26 percent, flour—by 29 percent, and whole milk products and cheese—by 27-28 percent.

Of the entire assortment of foodstuffs in 1994, output rose with respect to only four items: soft drinks—by 3 percent, sausage—by 4 percent, mayonnaise—by 22 percent, and sugar—by 39 percent.

Production of nonfood items declined 21 percent; in physical volume the output of passenger cars comprised 80 percent of last year's volume, of washing machines and thermos bottles—69 percent, watches—46 percent, television sets—41 percent, and electric samovars and electric irons—37-38 percent.

The output of light industry goods shrunk by 40 percent in 1994. Manufacture of suits and skirts amounted to 12-13 percent of last year's level, coats—27 percent, bed linens—41 percent, jackets—48 percent, slacks and dresses—61-62 percent, and shirts—83 percent.

Over the year, R5.233 billion worth of consumer goods and services were sold to the population through all distribution channels. In current prices this is 4.3 times more than last year, but the physical volume of goods and services sold declined by 17 percent.

Sales of consumer goods through all distribution channels generated R4.666 trillion. As compared to last year, the sales volume in comparable prices declined by 14.3 percent. The best months for commerce were July, September, October, and November, when the physical volume of sales increased.

The state sector in commerce currently no longer dominates the consumer market. About 80 percent of the total volume of retail sales are generated in the nonstate sector in commerce (including consumer cooperatives and sales of goods at open markets).

As of 1 January of this year, oblast commerce enterprises held R342 billion worth of current inventories, which in comparable prices is 8 percent less than last year. Inventories at the beginning of the year were sufficient to sustain 39 days of uninterrupted sales, and in December—29 days.

Over 1994, R567 billion worth of for-fee services were rendered to the population—half as much as last year. The volume of consumer services generated proceeds in the amount of R68 billion—a 69 percent decline. More than half of this volume of services was provided for the population by nonstate sector enterprises. The share of consumer services in the total volume shows a trend toward decline.

Inflation and Prices

In 1994 prices for consumer goods rose 4.8-fold as compared to 1993.

Over the year as a whole, retail prices for bread, milk, butter, and eggs increased fivefold, beef—eightfold, and hard cheese—ninefold.

As of 20 December, the consumer basket of 19 basic foodstuffs cost R105,000 in Samara, R132,000 in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Tolyatti, and R91,000 in Syzran. Among the 130 Russian cities monitored by this indicator, Samara is 38th.

The cost of for-fee services for the population increased 12.1-fold over the year.

Wholesale prices for industrial goods increased in December by 9.8 percent. Overall in 1994 they increased 3.1-fold.

Standard of Living and the Population's Income

According to preliminary data, the population's monetary per capita income amounted to R1.917 million, which is 3.2 times more than last year, and monetary expenditures—to R1.863 million, including expenditures on purchase of goods and services—R1.412 million, or 3.6 times more than last year.

The population's real income declined, since retail prices rose at a faster rate than income. While in December 1993 the average monthly wage equaled 5.1 times the value of the consumer basket of 19 basic foodstuffs, in December 1994 this factor measured 3.7.

In the structure of expenditures, the share of expenditures of various services increased sharply because of a considerable increase in their cost.

The population's savings held in deposits and securities increased 3.9-fold.

For the bulk of the population, earned wages remain the main source of income.

The payroll fund comprised 89 percent of the total consumption fund. Per worker income amounted to R262,500, and gross average wage—R233,700. Over the year the average wage increased 3.5-fold. In December it amounted to R390,500—a 25 percent increase over one month and a 2.5-fold increase as compared to last December. Higher than oblast average wages were registered in transportation, industry, construction, and material and technical supply and distribution. Especially high earnings were noted in the credit and finance sectors. Culture and arts, education, and agriculture remain the lowest-wage sectors.

As of 1 January 1995, 386 enterprises in industry, construction, and agriculture were in arrears with respect to issuing consumption funds, with aggregate arrears of R95.6 million.

Population employment. The employed labor force (not counting those engaged in new economic structures) declined over the year by 4 percent and numbered 1.296 million. In production sectors the labor force diminished by 7 percent, and in nonproduction sectors—increased by 5 percent. Considerable labor force reductions were registered in industry, science and science-related services, and information and computer services.

Unemployment benefits were granted to 13,500 (82 percent) unemployed people. Over the period January to December, one-third of the labor force of enterprises and organizations in industry, construction, transportation and communications, and science and science-related services were on forced administrative leave, and 19 percent of the labor force was transferred to a reduced work schedule.

At the same time, as of the end of December the oblast had 8,617 job vacancies, one-third of which were in industry.

Population. As of 1 January 1995 the oblast's population numbered 3.3 million.

Births numbered 30,100 over the year. Deaths numbered 50,000, including 487 infants less than one year old. The number of births increased insignificantly as compared to the preceding period—by 400 (1.3 percent). The number of deaths increased by 4,400 (9.5 percent).

The natural loss of the population measured 20,000.

As before, more than half of all deaths are caused by cardiovascular diseases; the next greatest cause of death is malignant tumors, followed by accidents, poisonings, and traumas.

In 1994, 25,300 new families were registered in the oblast, and 16,400 families disintegrated.

The natural population increase over the year was 42,800 persons—31,500 in urban settlements, and 11,300 in rural areas.

Crime. Over 1994, more than 50,000 crimes were registered, which is 0.3 percent more than in 1993. Every hour, six crimes were registered in the oblast.

Criminal charges were brought against 23,635, which is 5 percent more than over the corresponding period of last year.

The highest crime areas are the cities of Tolyatti, Otradnyy, and Oktyabrsk, and among rayons—Chelno-Vershinskiy, Shentalinskiy, Privolzhskiy, Krasnoyarskiy, Yelkhovskiy, Bogatovskiy, and Bezenchukskiy.

Education

As of the beginning of the 1994/95 school year, 446,400 children began school in 1,166 daytime general education schools, including more than 99,700—in 717 rural schools.

As compared to the last year, the number of pupils in all grades increased by 13,900 (3.2 percent).

As of 5 September 1994, 17 nonstate general education institutions were in operation, 11 of them since 1993.

As of the beginning of the 1994/95 school year, 13 federally owned institutions of higher learning were functioning in the oblast, with 64,400 students enrolled in them.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

As compared to 1993, full-time enrollment declined by 4 percent, while enrollment in correspondence courses increased by 23 percent. Institutions of higher learning graduated 7,757 specialists.

One of the signs of entering a market economy is an increase in the number of students enrolled on contract, with full reimbursement of expenses. Such students numbered 3,038; 45 percent of them were first enrolled in 1994.

The market produced an interest in higher learning institutions in attracting foreign students. The total number of foreign students enrolled was 231, 29 percent of whom enrolled in the 1994/95 school year. Of these foreigners, 181 are enrolled on a contract with full reimbursement of expenses.

As of the beginning of the 1994/95 school year, 61 secondary vocational schools were operating in the oblast, of which 36 were federal property, 18—the property of Federation components, six—municipal property, and one privately owned.

The status of specialized schools (colleges) was granted to 19 secondary vocational schools, in which 17,885 students are enrolled, or 36 percent of the total number of students.

Samara Oblast 1994 Health Statistics Cited

954F1978A Samara SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 95 p 4

[Article by T. Koynova, chief of the Department of Social Statistics of the oblast State Statistics Committee: "On Infectious, Parasitic, and Occupational Illnesses in 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Of the infectious and parasitic illnesses among the inhabitants of the oblast, acute infections of the upper respiratory tract are in first place—more than 712,000 cases; next is influenza—more than 79,000; and then chicken pox—about 15,000. The peak time for acute infections of the upper respiratory tract is February—91,777 persons, March—75,958, October—66,756, November—75,562, and December—84,972. Influenza had the scale of an epidemic in February and March—67,930 persons, or 86 percent of those who were ill during the year.

There was a significant increase, in comparison with last year, in the number of those sick with bacterial dysentery (197 percent) and hemorrhagic fever (190 percent). The number of those sick with the hepatitis virus (145 percent) and German measles (162 percent) increased by more than a factor of 1.5.

Typhoid fever (eight persons) constitutes a special danger. Cases were noted in January, June, August, October, November, and December. The number of sick increased by a factor of two.

Diphtheria is spreading more and more despite vaccinations of the population. By comparison with 1993, the number of cases of sickness increased almost by a factor of four. Cases of sickness began to increase in September—27 persons, and more in October—35, November—37, and December—56. In the last four months 155 persons got sick, or 61 percent of those who were sick in the year. Of the 254 who became sick, every third was a child.

The sickness rate among adults with "children's" illness increased: whooping cough—by a factor of two, scarlet fever—by a factor of 1.2, and German measles—by a factor of 1.8.

The sexual revolution continues to show "results." The number of people sick with syphilis totaled 5,322, while in 1993 it was 2,359—an increase by a factor of more than two. Moreover, the sickness rate is increasing steadily: In the first quarter—953, second—1,225, third—1,339, and fourth—1,805. The number of cases of sickness with gonorrhea fell in comparison with 1993; however, the number of sick significantly exceeds patients with syphilis—5,906. The spread of venereal diseases among children is especially alarming. The number of children sick with syphilis is 17, with gonorrhea—51.

Children got sick with salmonella infections more often than last year (by a factor of two), bacterial dysentery (by a factor of 2.3), tuberculosis (by a factor of 1.6), syphilis (by a factor of 1.1) diphtheria (by a factor of 3.1), whooping cough (by a factor of 1.6), scarlet fever (by a factor of 1.1), German measles (by a factor of 1.6), hemorrhagic fever (by a factor of 1.3), and hepatitis virus (by a factor of 1.4).

Some reduction was noted in sickness among both children and adults with colitis, enteritis, gastroenteritis, epidemic parotitis, pediculosis, meningococcemia infections, chicken pox, and measles.

The appearance of cases of sickness with ornithosis that were heretofore not noted puts one on guard.

During 1994 the number of patients with the first established diagnosis of occupational sickness (poisoning) was 231 persons, of which every third person was a woman. Among men, 99 percent were chronic invalids, and among women—85 percent.

'Democratic Russia' Less Active in Novosibirsk Oblast

954F2002A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 31 Mar 95 p 6

[Interview with Olga Lesnevskaya, press secretary of the Novosibirsk Oblast organization of Democratic Russia, by Ivan Alinov; place and date not given: "Where has Democratic Russia Disappeared To?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Against the not very striking political skyline at the oblast level, the organization

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

named Democratic Russia has sparkled like a bright star: It has already attracted a great deal of attention to itself.

And not just because its leader was Aleksey Manannikov: There were numerous press releases, frequently resembling political pamphlets, statements bordering on scandalous, active participation in elections at all levels. And suddenly... Democratic Russia disappeared. Its candidate deputies disappeared first, then the press releases and other external manifestations of political activity. Journalists, naturally, began to construct riddles. Not settling for rumors, your VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK corresponding went to the press secretary of the Novosibirsk Oblast organization of Democratic Russia, Olga Lesnevskaya, with a question: "Where has Democratic Russia disappeared to?

[Lesnevskaya] Nowhere. There has indeed been a hiatus. And it was the more gratifying because the gentlemen journalists noticed it. True, some of them ask questions while others start to make things up... Let me say at the outset: Democratic Russia has not disappeared anywhere, it remains just as it has always been. The elections showed that there is no point in actively participating in the political process. Why? Because under current conditions there is no possibility of influencing it. Therefore Democratic Russia did not participate in any of the subsequent elections.

[Alinov] But, excuse me, what about Aleksey Manannikov, who ran for the oblast soviet in the 36th district?

[Lesnevskaya] Manannikov ran as Aleksey Petrovich Manannikov, a deputy of the Federation Council, and not as a representative of Democratic Russia. The organization did not participate in the elections. We had no task for 12 March: Manannikov set a task for himself—to obtain an evaluation of his position as a senator—and he completed it successfully.

[Alinov] But is Manannikov still the leader of Democratic Russia?

[Lesnevskaya] At the organization council Aleksey Petrovich expressed a desire to be relieved of his "chairmanship" because of his employment as a deputy of the Federation Council. We took this request under advisement but only a conference can elect or dismiss a chairman. In general we have decided to work as though "on vacation," that is not to participate actively but to continue with purely functional activity.

[Alinov] What comes next?

[Lesnevskaya] If the situation changes, the decisions will change as well. I can say that in April in Chelyabinsk there will be a Democratic Russia congress, which will decide a great deal.

[Alinov] Democratic Russia is frequently confused with Manannikov's office...

[Lesnevskaya] Democratic Russia is a political organization and his office is the deputy's apparatus which was created in compliance with the law and a number of special provisions. As an assistant to Deputy Manannikov, I work in support of the activity of the deputy of the Federation Council, and as press secretary for Democratic Russia, I present its viewpoint. It is strange, but sometimes even the gentlemen journalists who write about politics sometimes get this confused.

Economic Issues

February Wages Show Living Standard 'Continues To Fall'

MM0704152695 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by political observer Vitaliy Golovachev: "Greetings From the February Paycheck"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The living standard of the "new Russian poor" continues to fall. This is graphically demonstrated by the latest State Committee for Statistics materials on February pay. It is rising considerably more slowly than inflation. In the national economy as a whole it rose by 18,400 rubles [R], or 6 percent, compared with January, whereas consumer prices increased almost twice as quickly—by 11 percent. For many badly off citizens pay is the only source of income and the fact that it is losing the "race" with inflation is putting the "new poor" in an even more difficult situation.

The decline is obvious when viewed in the dollar equivalent. In February average pay was $72. Last December it was $98 and in July it was $109.

The extremely low level of pay is a most acute social problem at the moment. In 1992 pay provided on average 2.9 times the minimum living standard; in 1993 it was 2.56 times, in 1994 it was 2.2 times, and now it is less than 1.5 times. Moreover, in many sectors pay is actually below the poverty line. In February it was (the countrywide average) R226,600 for able-bodied citizens. Pay in light industry, agriculture, public health, physical education, social security, education, culture, and art was below the poverty line. Meager paychecks are a sad fact in Tambov, Orel, Ivanovo, Kirov, and Pskov Oblasts, and in Mordovia, Mariy El, and Chuvashia.... What must people feel like when the money they get for their work does not even provide the basics?

There is still an amazingly wide gulf between the average pay of the best paid working people and that of the worst paid. In September 1991 the best paid received eight times as much; now they get 24 times as much. Altogether more than 15 million receive less than a living wage. But they stay in their jobs because there is no other work.

At the same time, people in successful sectors of the economy get several times more than the average for the country, and the money is always paid (you cannot say that of many industrial, construction, transport, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

agricultural enterprises). In the credit and insurance sphere (banks, insurance companies, and so on) pay may have fallen slightly (by 4 percent) but it is still R655,000. Usually with these categories of working people the total personal income is twice as much as the pay. So in these institutions the official paycheck runs into millions.

In the case of miners, pay has been "frozen," as it were, practically remaining at the previous level. When you consider that prices have risen very considerably, real pay has fallen sharply in the sector. The worst thing is that the miners do not actually get this money for months.

The great variations in pay from place to place is worrying. In some places it is more than a million, in others it is less than R170,000. Obviously you have such factors as climatic conditions (regional coefficient), the presence of an extraction industry, and the level of pay in raw material sectors. But, nonetheless, in my view, it is difficult to accept such a large discrepancy.

Questions connected with incomes policy are well overdue. But for some reason the authorities—all branches and all levels—are in no hurry to consider them. Do you have to have incidents or strikes to make people have emergency discussions of topical problems?

Average pay in February was R321,000 in the national economy as a whole; R382,200 in industry as a whole; R899,6600 in the oil extraction industry; R187,100 in light industry; R691,400 in the coal industry; R127,100 in agriculture; R204,700 in health, physical education, and social security; R190,400 in education; and R181,800 in culture and art.

Government Decree on Rationalizing Customs Tariffs

MM1004084895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 95

[Decree No. 190 of the Russian Federation Government "On Principles for the Rationalization of the Import Customs Tariff," signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated 28 February 1995, Moscow—from the "Business in Russia" section, p 6]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to further rationalize the import customs tariff the Russian Federation Government decrees:

1. It is deemed expedient to set maximum rates of import customs duty at 30 percent of the customs value of goods except luxury items, tobacco articles, alcoholic drinks, and weapons; to prescribe a minimum rate of import customs duty of 5 percent in relation to all goods liable to import customs duties, reducing the proportion of goods not liable to duties by 45-50 percent by the end of 1995; and to extend the list of goods to which combined rates of import customs duty are applied.

2. Before 15 March 1995 the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and Russian Federation State Customs Committee are to submit agreed proposals on changing rates of import customs duty to the Russian Federation Government in the prescribed manner, being guided by Paragraph 1 of this decree.

3. Before 1 April 1995 the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is to prepare and publish a graph indicating the phased reduction of import customs duties for the period 1996-2000 on the extended commodity groups, based on the following premises:

the maximum rate of import tariff will be 20 percent from 1 January 1998 and 15 percent from 1 January 2000;

the weighted average rate of import tariff in 1998 will be 80 percent of the 1995 level and in 2000 will be 70 percent of the 1995 level.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin.

Zhirinovskiy Letter Decries Use of Bonds

954E0823A Moscow DELOVOY MIR in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 3

[Letter to the editor from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly and chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia: "Crime by the Name of Treasury Bonds"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have patently lost our senses. The budget for the present year will undoubtedly go down in history. In one of the histories in which Gogol's hero Nozdrev usually found himself. Judge for yourselves. A substantial part of our revenue comes from foreign credit and the sale of government securities. As far as the credit is concerned, everything is clear. This subject has been chewed over a thousand times. We are becoming increasingly dependent on the outside world. True, the West is not giving all that much as yet. The amount of foreign private investments is paltry also. Nor, ultimately, does the idea of the resolution of our domestic problems at the expense of the outside world frighten me in principle. It is something else that I find offensive. It is offensive when the credit is ineptly eaten and drunk away and stolen.

The second source of revenue according to Chubays, now responsible for the country's finances, are government securities, so-called treasury bonds (GKO). The government is promising stupendous interest on the T-bonds. This interest is higher than the interbank lending rate. This means that it is more profitable to invest money in government paper than to extend credit. That is, when I, businessman Sidorov, go to the bank and ask for money to purchase a commodity, the banker will tell me: "It is not in my interest to lend money to you, old fellow, I can make

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

far more by investing in T-bonds. In addition, old fellow, it is more trouble with you.... You could run off to America with the credit or incur losses, but the government promises dependability. We just sit here, and the money comes in." Not to mention credit for research or high technology—this becomes utterly pointless.

So the government collects money against a high rate of interest. It is not profitable to invest in production. It is not profitable even in trade with a rapid turnover. It is profitable to invest in paper. The state is with its own hands destroying the vestiges of production. This is a crime in pure form. Or extreme idiocy.

The Ministry of Finance makes no secret even of the fact that the T-bonds game is an out-and-out pyramid. Some ladies and gentlemen from the Ministry of Finance are enchanted with the possibilities of the pyramid. The state will collect resources for funding the military and the agrarians and other needs. But the essence of a pyramid is that it grows like a cancer, and new money is invested in new paper. Those who obtain earmarked credit for agriculture think: "I shall just invest this money in T-bonds for three months and double the amount. I don't give a damn about these tractors. And with the money that I get I shall plug up the mouth of any government inspectors." This game is like gambling, like cards. Read Dostoyevskiy.

It is obvious that the government has gone Mavrodi's route. But Sergey Mavrodi is a private individual. His firms are private. When a private individual wants to attract as much money as possible, this is at least understandable. Especially at the height of monetary privatization, when each and everything has been sold off—from the ceremonial services offices to the helicopter plant. Chubays thought that state property would be bought up on the cheap by government officials and foreigners since the ordinary citizens have neither the resources nor access to management. But Mavrodi outdid them. He was the third force who bagged them both. At the impact moment of privatization he had amassed sums that neither foreigners nor the red directors had dreamed of. He had an opportunity to buy up practically all of Russia's industry. No one had expected this. And then they employed the power method against Mavrodi, from which he and millions of his shareholders are still unable to recover. But this is another story, which will, I am sure, end normally, nonetheless.

I recall asking Chubays at the height of the MMM crisis: "Let Mavrodi explain from what he is paying out such stock dividends. In which branches is he investing?" Were this question to be put to Chubays today: "Where is such T-bond interest coming from? Whence this super-profitability?" I don't need an answer. I know it. The interest is coming from the new monetary takings.

What will happen next? The "government pyramid" will, of course, crash. This will happen closer to the end of the year, I believe. Banks close to the government are loading up inasmuch as they are well aware of this entire plan and will be notified ahead of time about the end of the "pyramid." An enormous number of commercial banks, whose owners are not boozing it up in saunas with members of the government and officials from the Ministry of Finance, will be ruined. Many retirement funds and simply structures that have decided to play the T-bonds will burst also. Chubays will be driven out, having been accused of all sins. At the start of next year a number of officials will quietly leave the Ministry of Finance for an unknown destination. Left looking like fools will be only the investors, who one fine day will be told that the government is suspending payment on the T-bonds in connection with.... A reason will be found, don't worry. Perhaps some latest armed conflict will have appeared by that time. Or someone will have died. Or America will not grant us credit.

One further fundamental rule. Any mentally sound citizen should know it. If someone promises rapid and high earnings, there are here, consequently, great risks and few guarantees. Take the risk if you wish, but consider: If you lose, do not weep or complain. If you want reliability and guarantees, do not chase after fast earnings. This rule ensures the ongoing movement of any society. The majority of people still prefer stability and specifics. A small number like to take risks. And let those who will be ruined as a result of the Chubays swindle not weep, therefore. Let them not run to me, asking for protection. I warn everyone, even now, nine months before the crash: The T-bonds are a crime. I warn private individuals here also for these beauties have, in addition, hit upon the idea of "brewing" T-bonds for private individuals also.

Gorbachev once complained that our budget revenue comes mainly from oil and vodka. We have nothing else to sell, he said. Today Chubays is no longer selling commodities but simply paper. And instead of constructing, mining, and building roads, the whole country will be reselling this paper. No, boys, it is better to construct, to mine, to build. This is more dependable.

Accidents, Strikes Blamed on 'Crisis in Coal Sector'

MM1004081495 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Fedor Yemchenko: "There, at the Coal Mines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mourning was declared last Wednesday, 5 April, in Vorkuta for the miners who died. An explosion of methane at the "Vorkutinskaya" mine took 10 lives. Nine people suffered injuries of varying degrees of seriousness. A Federal Mining and Industrial Inspectorate commission is establishing the reasons for the tragedy.

At the same time, the miners' hunger strike is continuing at the other end of Russia, in Partizanskiy Rayon in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Maritime Kray. For eight days miners from the "Avangard" mine have remained underground and refused food. The dampness and the lack of fresh air have led to a situation whereby 14 people who were participating in the hunger strike had to be hospitalized. Displaying solidarity with the "Avangard" collective, the other mines in the region have also stopped work.

At first sight these events are not connected in any way. However, on closer inspection, the cause in both cases is the crisis in the coal sector and the lack of funds for wages, the renewal of equipment, and the implementation of modern, safe coal mining technologies.

According to reports from the "Primorskugol" joint stock company, all miners in Maritime Kray have come to a standstill, and coal mining is only continuing at reduced capacity in open pits. Miners from Luchegorskiy pit intend to strike as of 12 April unless the wages arrears are paid. The miners in Partizansk are still not coming up from the face. According to the leadership of the joint stock company, "the future is unpredictable, since the situation is now out of control."

The controlling organs have finally started wondering what happened to the money that was allocated to the miners. During a check of the financial-economic activity of the "Primorskugol" joint stock company, it came to light that a sum of 17 billion rubles [R] from the federal budget had never reached the Maritime Kray miners. An audit was conducted by the Federal Treasury Administration for Maritime Kray. As the kray prosecutor's office reported, the diverted funds "hung around" various commercial structures. At the same time the coal mining sector had no funds for its vital needs. According to independent experts, the present crisis situation in coal mining in Maritime Kray and the strike by the region's miners which began today are the direct consequences of the targeted funds having been squandered.

The Maritime Kray Prosecutor's Office is not ruling out the possibility that criminal proceedings may be instituted against officials in the previous leadership on the basis of the results of the prosecutor's office check. Viktor Chebotkevich, former general director of "Primorskugol," is to be questioned.

The social tension at enterprises in the famous Kansk-Achinsk Fuel and Energy Complex has reached dangerous proportions. Until recently Borodinskiy, Nazarovskiy, and Berezovskiy open pits were the pride of the sector. Today you can hear discussions in Moscow offices to the effect that Russia will not need Siberian fuel until 2010. This means that unique equipment will have to be mothballed. Putting it back into operation in 10-15 years' time will scarcely be possible. Or such enormous funds will be required for this purpose that it will be cheaper to buy coal in Australia.

Miners at the Kansk-Achinsk coal field will not accept such "concern" for the good of Russia. They are prepared to start a mass protest action.

As our correspondent reported from Kemerovo, there was a sudden roof fall during the night shift in the third section of the "Polosukhinskaya" mine in Novokuznetsk. At that time miners Brigadin and Artemov were working on repairing the combine there. Three hours later mine rescue workers reached them, but, alas, they were already dead....

The commission is establishing the reasons for the accident. In another tragedy, which occurred the day before at the "Pionerka" mine in the city of Belovo, miner T. himself was to blame for what happened. He decided to "go for a ride" in a cargo gondola, which is categorically forbidden. Unfortunately at that moment the cable broke. The miner was killed.

A total of 26 miners have died at Kuzbass coal enterprises since the beginning of the year.

Planned Closure of Kuzbass Mines Viewed

954E0823A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 2

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin report specially for RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA: "The Kuzbass: Upturn Planned: It Is Contemplated Having Closed 11 Mines in the Kuzbass by 1997, But Having Increased Annual Coal Production in the Basin by 10 Million Tonnes"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

In the best years in the Kuzbass this plank fluctuated between 160 million and 150 million tonnes. That there was substandard fuel and fuel that had been recovered at great cost in these amounts was not taken into account, and for this reason many of the mines established in the war years and after were not modernized. The economic reform barred entry to the market for enterprises that had outlived their time.

Coal procured at a high price, at the price of miners' lives included, is going begging in Russia. If the product is not sold, there is no miners' pay either. Support on the part of the state is of a limited nature also. The local strikes in Kiselevsk, Prokopyevsk, Anzhero-Sudzhensk, and Kemerovo for this reason forced both the Rosugol Company and specialists locally to respond promptly to the situation. To their credit, they opted not for helter-skelter methods of a solution of financial conflicts but a systemic long-term approach.

A program of the restructuring of the co.. industry of the Kuzbass has appeared, for example. This bulky work provides for new approaches in the comprehensive development of Russia's biggest fuel region. Its main idea, as I see it, amounts to inefficient coal works being supplanted in planned fashion by modern technology.

The process will progress in several directions. Promising enterprises, which constitute approximately one-third of the total number of mines and reserves, will be

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

modernized. Productive equipment and the concentration of mining operations will be the main components of this process, and the intensive assimilation of new coalfields in the East Kuzbass—the Yerunakovskoye, Sokolovskoye, and others—will begin.

Preparation of the fuel for sale will become prevalent. That is, commodity types of product will be created thanks to concentration, grading, and packaging, which will make it possible to achieve a lower transport component in its price.

There will also, most likely, be organizational changes in the structure of the coal industry. Specialists believe that so-called vertically integrated coal companies, which will undertake the working of new deposits, the mining, conversion, and sale of the coal, and the modernization and expansion of production from the financial and material resources that they accumulate will appear. Preliminary calculations show that 65 percent of the coal mined in the Kuzbass would be competitive on the world market here. Today this indicator is no more than 40 percent.

Of course, the region's coal branch will lose some jobs. The restructuring program takes account of this also. The preparation of approximately 4,000 new jobs against the anticipated release of 2,640 miners is envisaged in 1995 from the resources of the Rosugol Company, the Kuzbass budget, and commercial structures.

The right of competitive examination of the plans for the creation of new jobs has been delegated to the Kuzbassinvestugol Corporation. The first proposals concerning the miners' city of Berezovskiy, where all the mines are still operating, but where unemployment is already beginning to make itself felt, were discussed here in March. It is planned to offer the released miners here work in the manufacture of precision electrical and electronic home and industrial appliances and also in construction and the assimilation of the production of ultrafine basalt fibers and in the city's municipal services.

Space Rocket Enterprise Said To Have Promising Future

MM0704141995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "The Defense Industry Can Be Comfortably Off Without Begging for Alms From the Treasury"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There was universal weeping and wailing in the recent parliamentary hearings on space. The sector's leaders, having covered the room with posters and graphs, were playing for pity and arguing that cosmonautics is doomed without large budgetary transfusions. This sector really cannot manage without support in any country. But it is also true that even in the present conditions it is possible to organize your enterprise in such a way that you will not live by begging but will serve progress.

The Transport Machine Building Design Bureau [TMBDB] is a most typical enterprise in the Russian military-industrial complex in terms both of its incomprehensible name and of its actual work profile. But the energy of Gennadiy Biryukov, its director and chief designer, is, for the most part, not expended on doing the rounds of ministerial offices, where his colleagues are fed impossible promises. Biryukov's energy goes on being comfortably off without begging for alms from the treasury. Although budget funding for the TMBDB was ended in 1992, it turns out that this is perfectly within the realms of possibility for the eternally aggrieved defense industry workers. By the end of 1994 the average wage at the TMBDB state enterprise, which is endowed with the right of economic independence, had reached 700,000 rubles a month. This seems like paradise to the neighbors.

The TMBDB specializes in developing rocket launch complexes. The ground complexes for several types of rockets—Cosmos, Tsiklon, Zenit—have been created at the enterprise. The launch complex for the Zenit, constructed at Baykonur and consisting of a good 100 structures, is described by foreign specialists as the supreme scientific and technical achievement of the 20th century in space rocket technology. Robotized units function here, and manual work has been entirely excluded. The task of keeping the rocket on the launch pad with the engine operating at full throttle has been resolved for the first time. Five hours after a rocket launch the installation is ready for another launch.

Very many enterprises in the military-industrial complex are making ends meet by letting their extensive premises out to commercial structures. The TMBDB displayed weakness just once—during the first year that it was removed from the budget, when one floor of its 16-story block was leased to the "Elbim-Bank." Then a structural reorganization began, and the complement fell from 1,250 to a stable level of 750 people. Even today the TMBDB is managing not to betray its profile. Orders from our own military-industrial complex and the Russian Space Agency provide 80 percent of the revenue. Incidentally, the TMBDB certainly does not have a monopoly on ground rocket equipment and is like a cat on a hot tin roof in search of orders.

Conversion provides a further 8 percent: The TMBDB is defined as the country's head enterprise in the creation of equipment for potato processing. In 1994 the TMBDB delivered and commissioned 17 miniplants for the production of fried potato products. There is nothing surprising in this for specialists; on the contrary, it is extremely interesting how a hoist from the missile cruiser Kirov can be adapted as a chip-producing complex. Although space partialities are also preserved in conversion work: TMBDB technology is now being used to put into production beverages of the Pepsi type, which have tenderly and nostalgically been named "Buran" and "Baykonur."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The enterprise also makes real money out of foreign economic activity. The famous General Dynamics and Martin Lockheed ask the TMBDB for advice on how best to automate the Atlas rocket launch operations at Cape Canaveral. But the main currency receipts come from modernizing the launch complex at the Shar range in India.

At the same time as funereal sentiments reign in many related enterprises, the TMBDB, to use the lofty style of the age of stagnation, is looking confidently to the future. Work is under way to construct a Zenit launch complex at Plesetsk Cosmodrome, and a plan of a complex for a new Angara rocket is being drawn up. The most promising direction is the development of a general-purpose complex, which will make it possible to launch rockets of all classes with a launch mass ranging between 150 and 1,500 tonnes from a single installation. And, of course, there is participation in creating the Alfa international space station, in which it is planned to make extensive use of the Russian Zenit rocket.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

International Affairs

Foreign Minister To Visit Iran Despite No-Confidence Vote

LD0704195795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 7 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Despite the recent vote of no confidence in the Ukrainian government, its delegation will soon visit Iran as planned earlier. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Gennadiy Udovenko told Interfax - Ukraine that he will head the delegation.

The Ukrainian parliament sacked Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and voted for no confidence in the entire government on April 4. So far, the ministers will act as such.

According to Udovenko, the final decision was made after consultations with the Iranian side which "confirmed its interest in the visit."

Udovenko said the visit will involve both bilateral and trilateral talks also attended by the Turkmen foreign minister.

The delegation includes officials from the Industry and Energy Production Ministries and State Oil Committee who will discuss bilateral cooperation in specific areas within five working groups.

Udovenko said the construction of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Iran and Turkey "is a new issue for us; we will also discuss it at the talks." The delegation includes experts in relevant areas, he added.

Udovenko emphasized his visit to Tehran had nothing to do with Russia's sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. He declined to comment on the issue saying it was an issue concerning Russia, Iran and the U.S.

Udovenko: Russia, Ukraine Must Seek Closer Cooperation

LD0704201895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 7 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Despite the recent incidents in the Russian and Ukrainian parliaments, the two countries must seek closer cooperation, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, said Thursday [6 April].

Commenting on the incident in the Ukrainian parliament when radical deputies tore into pieces a Russian flag in response to a similar action by Russian deputy Nikolay Lysenko, Udovenko described the action as "improper." "This should not have been done," he added.

Both Russia and Ukraine should seek better relations, accomplish the talks on a treaty on friendship and proceed from the need for positive contacts, he said.

At the same time, Udovenko regarded the Russian parliament's consideration of the Crimea issue as "intervention in our affairs to some extent."

"Imagine our parliament considering the situation in any of Russia's regions," he added.

According to Udovenko, Ukraine understood that Russia had interests in Crimea and that is why it maintained permanent talks on the issue.

Udovenko called the fact that the Russian parliament had made a resolution Wednesday "vexing."

"Another way could have been followed," he noted.

The Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) decided to invite a delegation of the Crimean Supreme Soviet headed by Parliamentary Chairman Sergey Tsekov to its session.

Commission Chairman on Russian Duma, Sevastopol, NPT

LD0704202695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 7 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Putting the item of "the illegal character of the transfer of Sevastopol to Ukraine" on the State Duma's agenda could lead to endangering Kiev's support for extending the treaty on non-proliferation [NPT] of nuclear weapons, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Commission on International Affairs and Relations with the CIS Ivan Zayets said.

He told Interfax - Ukraine in an interview today that Ukraine had joined the non-proliferation treaty under the condition that it could opt out if territorial claims were made on it.

Zayets said the nuclear powers who gave Ukraine security and territorial integrity guarantees must "influence the State Duma so that the Sevastopol issue is not raised there again."

"The State Duma is looking for an external enemy. Unfortunately, it has found such an enemy in Ukraine," Zayets said.

Defense Official Warns of Halt to Nuclear Shipments

LD0804101095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest moves on Ukraine by Russia's State Duma and, in particular, a moratorium on

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

any unilateral reduction of the Black Sea Fleet and continuous pressure on the status of Sevastopol, should be regarded as actions against the national security of Ukraine, Volodymyr Mukhin, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine Defense and State Security Committee, said in an interview with UNIAN. He further stated that these actions could "cast doubt on Boris Yeltsin's signing of the memorandum on security guarantees extended to Ukraine after its accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty." He warned that the Ukrainian deputies are likely soon to "react adequately" to the document on the Black Sea Fleet passed by the lower house of Russia's parliament.

If Russia continues acting against the security of Ukraine, it cannot be ruled out that Ukraine's Supreme Council will take a decision to suspend the withdrawal of nuclear warheads from the territory of Ukraine, he added.

OSCE Official Meets Crimean Leadership

LD0704190995 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1525 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 7 Apr—"A whole number of principles should underlie a settlement to existing problems. Apart from those of autonomy, account should be taken of the fundamental principles of Ukraine's territorial integrity and constitution," Max van der Stoel, OSCE high commissioner for national minorities, said after his talks with Crimean parliament Chairman Serhiy Tsekov.

Serhiy Tsekov said: "All we feel at the moment is a treble diktat by Kiev. It speaks to us the language of force." Serhiy Tsekov felt it necessary in this situation to appeal to the international community. He passed to the OSCE high commissioner the resolutions by the parliaments of Ukraine and Crimea for the past three years. They will be studied for a month.

Max van der Stoel also met acting Crimean government Chairman Arkadiy Demidenko, who said: "We are relying on this mission very much indeed. Today, I issued instructions to provide the OSCE and UN missions to Simferopol with the premises."

Meeting Valeriy Horbatov, representative of the Ukrainian president to the Crimean autonomous Republic, Max van der Stoel agreed that the Supreme Council of Ukraine's legislative acts of 17 March were legitimate.

Moscow, Kiev To Launch Joint Gas Export Venture

LD0704181595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian at 1330 GMT on 7 April reports that Ukraine and Russia are shortly to launch a joint venture to increase Russian natural gas exports to Europe. As the result, Russian gas exports will rise by 25 to 30 billion cubic meters per annum, the agency quotes Bohdan Klyuk, the chairman of the board of the joint-stock company Ukrhazprom, as saying in an interview with UNIAN today.

The plan is to set up, by 1 May, a closed joint-stock Russo- Ukrainian company with foreign investment, Haztranzit, to be half- owned by Russia's Gazprom and Ukraine's Hazprom each. At Russia's request, Ukraine will guarantee that the property of Haztranzit will not be subject to nationalization.

With Gazprom to build 1,461 kilometers of trunk pipeline and 14 compressor stations on Ukrainian territory by the year 2000, Haztranzit will finance, build, and operate new gas transit facilities, the agency says.

Ukraine's Oil, Gas, and Oil Refining Industry State Committee has announced that, alongside of the approval of the company's founding documentation, the allocation of land to new construction sites has already begun.

Russia has suggested that two underground gas storage facilities in Ukraine should form part of the company's authorized capital, a proposal not yet accepted by Ukraine, the agency says.

The agency further quotes Klyuk as discounting any realistic alternative to Russian cooperation with Ukraine in boosting its gas export to Europe, as plans to have two pipelines in Belarus built to pump fuel will not solve the problem. "Ukraine has been and will be the largest exporter of Russian gas to Europe," the agency quotes Klyuk as saying.

Ukraine at present transports 110 billion cubic meters of gas per annum, with the joint venture to enable exports to increase to 140 billion cubic meters by the year 2000, the agency says.

National Affairs

Roundup of Press Reaction to Perry Visit

AU0704113195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Central Ukrainian press received to date (through 6 April) has carried primarily factual reporting on the 30 March to 5 April visit by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry to Ukraine.

The 4 April edition of HOLOS UKRAYINY carries on pages 1 and 9 a report by columnist Taras Pertiv on meetings Perry held with Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov and President Leonid Kuchma. The report stresses Shmarov's appreciation of the U.S. contribution to Ukraine's efforts to dismantle strategic nuclear weapons. Pertiv writes: "Perhaps the main result of the visit is in the promotion of the political dialogue between Washington and Kiev, a dialogue that is becoming increasingly open from month to month." The report also quotes Kuchma as telling Perry that "Ukraine will take an active part in the Partnership for Peace program." [See FBIS AU0504145595]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

URYADOVYY KURYER on 6 April carries on page 2 a report by Tetyana Kovalevska on a news conference at Ukraine's Foreign Ministry. She quotes Deputy Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko as stressing satisfaction with U.S. "support for the policy pursued by Ukraine," as testified to by Perry's visit. Yuriy Serheyev, head of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry Information Administration, told those at the briefing that Clinton's forthcoming visit is of "exceptional significance for the further development of bilateral relations." [See FBIS AU0704103895]

Moroz Reports on Supreme Council Presidium's Activities

LD0704180995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukrainian Parliamentary Chairman Oleksandr Moroz reported the parliamentary presidium's activities to the deputies in Kiev Friday.

Summing up the first results, he remarked that the new Ukrainian Supreme Soviet "began to work under the difficult circumstances of the lack of a legislative basis and procedures." Moreover, "the constitutional process had been interrupted at the half-way point, while there was no constitutional court."

According to Moroz, "these conditions had a serious impact on power-sharing between the branches of power in Ukraine."

Moroz criticized the republic's government for its failure to submit a package of documents on economic reforms in the country until the parliament-set deadline.

"The country needs a legal reform, adjustment of the economy and stronger accent on the development of the domestic production," he added.

Commenting on the opposition's accusations of corruption, he said: "All this is lies and nonsense. I am clear before the people, Supreme Soviet and my own conscience." He emphasized that "consolidation of society, civic accord and surmounting the crisis must start between the parliamentary walls."

According to information available to Interfax, the parliamentary factions of the Popular Rukh of Ukraine, Statehood and Reforms distributed a draft resolution among the deputies describing the parliamentary presidium's performance as "unsatisfactory" and proposing a vote of no confidence.

According to another draft resolution, the parliament takes the parliamentary presidium's report into consideration.

Groups Propose Resolutions at Supreme Council Session

LD0704181995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1520 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—On 7 April, after hearing the annual report by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz on the activities of the presidium, the Supreme Council passed a resolution instructing the Supreme Council presidium to sum up all proposals and remarks made during the discussion of the report at the commissions and at the plenary sitting, and to work out measures to put them into effect. The resolution was passed, with 234 votes for the resolution, 69 votes against it, and 15 abstentions.

The parliament's presidium was also instructed to study and submit for the consideration of the Supreme Council proposals concerning the introduction of amendments and addenda to the Constitution of Ukraine on the legal status of the presidium, its structure, and the procedure of its formation.

Commenting on the outcome of the voting on the resolution in an interview with UNIAN, Oleksandr Lavrynovych, one of the leaders of the Rukh [People's Movement of Ukraine] parliamentary faction, said "the parliament's forces that bear responsibility for the policy line chosen by the Supreme Council have thus become personified."

The Rukh, "Statehood," and "Reforms" factions offered a draft resolution on assessing the activities by the Supreme Council presidium as unsatisfactory, on voting no confidence in it and on its resignation.

"The Independent" parliamentary grouping proposed in its draft that the rotation of the Supreme Council presidium members be carried out annually at the expense of rotating chairmen of standing commissions and that the commissions' structure and composition be revised periodically and changed, if need be.

"The Independent" also proposed that the number of sectional commissions be reduced and functional commissions be set up, particularly a control commission and a commission for structural reorganization and investments.

Leaders of all factions emphasized insufficiency of the work done by the Supreme Council presidium and violation of the parliament's rules of procedure by its leadership and people's deputies themselves.

The "Center" grouping proposed that the legitimacy of the leadership of the Supreme Council of Ukraine be confirmed.

Tsekov News Conference on Political Events

954F2005A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[L. Chevelcha report: "In the Balance—Stabilization. Different Levels...."]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Having returned from a session of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, at which the "Crimean question" was considered, Sergey Tsekov addressed journalists at a news conference devoted to the events of recent days and the political situation in the republic.

But at the start of his speech the speaker observed at once that he wanted to express his view of the situation in Crimea, but this situation, in his opinion, had taken shape not in connection with yesterday's session of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and not in connection with the adoption of the decisions of which Crimeans are well aware but had been doing so since the surmounting of the crisis in the Supreme Council of Crimea. The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea had been formed, and the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea had been elected. The agenda included the question of the government rendering account. After this, there was a sharp intensification of the work of the Government of the Republic of Crimea, which was geared to a discrediting of the activity of the Supreme Council of Crimea. The government, which had been formed by the Supreme Council of Crimea, began to work against this Supreme Council.

"We had repeatedly an opportunity to hear from the mouths of government employees that the present Supreme Council is incompetent and that the actions of the present Supreme Council contain much sloganeering, but in parliamentary republics the supreme councils form the governments, and if the accountable body has some questions of the legislature, the correct thing is for the member of the government who disagrees with the actions of the Supreme Council to tender his resignation. Finding no support in the Supreme Council of Crimea and, in the speaker's view, finding no particular support in Crimea, the Government of the Republic of Crimea began to torpedo Kiev. The result of these appeals," S. Tsekov emphasized, "was the unprecedented consideration of a number of issues devoted to Crimea on 17 March of this year in the Supreme Council of Ukraine. After this," Sergey Pavlovich specified, "the report of the government was heard, for all that, and the Supreme Council of Crimea expressed a vote of no confidence in two members of this body: the deputy prime minister and the prime minister. After which, they were dismissed. Anatoliy Ivanovich Drobotov was elected prime minister of the republic, and his appointment was legitimate, legitimate from the viewpoint of legislation of Ukraine also. The session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine of 24 March of this year confirmed the soundness of the decisions that had been adopted by the Supreme Council of Crimea."

Speaking of his meetings with the leadership of Ukraine, the president of Ukraine, and the acting prime minister and deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, S. Tsekov observed that they were of a confidential nature, but that during these meetings they had spoken about the complexity of the situation in Crimea and the need for its composed and balanced consideration and had said that there was no need for undue haste. We were, generally, in a frame of mind for normal, tranquil mutual business.

"Nonetheless, the situation in Crimea continued to be inflamed all the while primarily by the government," the speaker emphasized.

Despite the fact that we agreed with the president of Ukraine not to rush the resolution of the complex problems confronting Crimea, intensive preparations were under way, in S. Tsekov's opinion, in parallel with these meetings for a session of the Cabinet of Ministers, in the same style, furthermore, as the sitting of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 17 March. Everything was once again sustained in strict secrecy, with some nighttime calls which summoned the Government of the Republic of Crimea to Kiev the following morning for discussion of the question of the socioeconomic situation in the Republic of Crimea at the session of the Cabinet of Ministers. Prime Minister A. Drobotov even was not, in fact, notified as to the actual procedure of the preparation.

The journalists were able to observe the progress of the discussion of the question of the socioeconomic position of Crimea at the session of the Cabinet of Ministers on television. S. Tsekov observed in this connection that he did not recall there ever previously having been a transmission from a session of the Cabinet of Ministers. The production, of course, was fine, and all spoke in the same key, although they had prior to this given the assurance that exclusively socioeconomic matters would be considered, but, nonetheless, this session was devoted primarily to a political matter connected with the situation in Crimea and with the dismissal of two members of the Government of Crimea. It was proposed that the Government of Crimea be brought directly under the jurisdiction either of the president of Ukraine or the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, that Prime Minister Franchuk be restored to office, and that elections to the local councils be postponed, and the need for the creation of a structure of the strict vertical line of the executive was discussed also.

The speaker observed that were the president of Ukraine to issue an edict on the direct subordination of the Government of Crimea to Kiev, Crimea would be just the same kind of oblast as the rest and simply a colony of Ukraine even.

Answering journalists' questions, S. Tsekov emphasized that while not wishing to get into a confrontation with Kiev, the Supreme Council of Crimea would nonetheless defend its positions to the end. The head of our parliament also nurtures hopes that the Russian Federation has not yet had its say. And it has every moral right to have its say on the situation in Crimea.

Questions concerning the activity of the prime minister and deputy prime minister of the government, which is, allegedly, of a not entirely "legal" coloration, are being stirred up in earnest. S. Tsekov deemed it necessary to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

note in this connection that A. Franchuk had as of late been organizing his work under the influence of certain forces and had played a serious part in the crises of the legislature. In the speaker's opinion, these crises were in one way or another inspired by certain decrees of the Crimean Government also. The present activity of former Deputy Prime Minister A. Senchenko, who is continuing to avail himself of his office and his former connections, was cited at the news conference as being provocative also.

S. Tsekov also expressed perplexity as regards the discrepancy between the present actions of the internal affairs authorities and the promises to steer clear of politics, which they had given so ardently earlier.

The chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea also observed that, contrary to the statement of Deputy Prime Minister A. Demidenko that Crimeans had received with composure the decisions of the Supreme Council of Ukraine of 17 March of this year, according to a sociological survey, the majority of citizens of the republic disagree with the abolition of our constitution. And for this reason stability in Crimea should not be expected until the question of the precise demarcation of the powers of the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities has been decided.

At the conclusion of the news conference Deputy Boris Kizilov familiarized the journalists with documents which, according to him, shed light on the unlawful activity of individual leaders of the government.

Crimean Parliament Appeals to Yeltsin, Council of Europe

LD0704185295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—On 6 April, the Supreme Council of Crimea appealed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Council of Europe Secretary-General Daniel Tarschys for active mediation in further relations between Kiev and Simferopol, and supervision in all sociopolitical activities expected to take place in the Republic of Crimea, primarily as regards preparations for elections and the very elections to local councils on 25 June.

The appeal comes after Ukraine's Supreme Council passed several legislative acts on Crimea on 17th and 31st March of 1995.

The appeal says that these decisions were in breach of the Constitutions of Ukraine and Crimea and effectively removed Crimea's president and parliament, elected by the free expression of wish by a considerable majority of the Crimean people, from the performance of their constitutional duties.

The appeal reads: "Disregard for the ideals of democracy and fundamental human rights casts doubt on the assertion that Ukraine is building a democratic state governed by law on the basis of human rights and with account taken of the interests of national minorities."

Decree on Election of Crimean Deputies

954F1990A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

["Decree of the Ukrainian Supreme Council: On Elections of Deputies and Chairmen of Local Councils of People's Deputies in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of Ukraine

1. To schedule the elections of deputies and chairmen of local councils of people's deputies in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea for Sunday, 25 June 1995, and conduct them based on the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of Deputies and Chairmen of Rural, Settlement, Rayon, City, Rayon-in-City, and Oblast Councils," dated 24 February 1994.

2. To repeal the Decree of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea "On the Scheduling of Elections of Deputies and Chairmen of Local Councils of the Crimean Republic," dated 18 January 1995.

3. That the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission on State Structuring, the Activity of Councils, and Self-Government shall present for examination by the Ukrainian Supreme Council, prior to 10 April 1995, draft amendments and additions to the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of Deputies and Chairmen of Rural, Settlement, Rayon, City, Rayon-in-City, and Oblast Councils," dated 24 February 1994, taking into account proposals on the establishment of quotas for Crimean Tatar and other deported peoples.

4. To extend the term of authority of existing local councils of people's deputies in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea until the elections of deputies and chairmen of local councils of people's deputies in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea take place in accordance with Ukrainian legislation.

[Signed] Chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine
A. MOROZ
City of Kiev
24 March 1995

Crimean Law on Amending Law on Referenda

954F1990B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

["Law of the Crimean Republic: On Introduction of Amendments to Article 23 of the Crimean ASSR Law on Referenda"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of Crimea

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

1. That the fifth paragraph of the first part of Article 23 of the Crimean ASSR Law "On Referenda" (VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA KRYMA, 1991-1992, No. 4) shall be changed to read as follows:

"Prior to formation of the Central Commission on All-Crimea Referenda, the authority of this body shall be exercised by the Central Electoral Commission for Elections of the Crimean Supreme Council."

2. This law enters into force as of its date of publication.

[Signed] Chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council S. TSEKOV
City of Simferopol
23 March 1995
No. 403-1

Republic Faction Deplores Crimea Events

954F1990C Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

["Declaration of the Republic Deputy Faction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Proceeding** from the principles of structuring a rule-of-law, democratic state,

taking into account the existing political-legal complications between Ukraine and Crimea,

viewing the statehood of Crimea primarily as a factor of rapprochement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, especially on the threshold of the forthcoming signing of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between Russia and Ukraine,

the Republic faction **declares:**

that the decisions of the Crimean Supreme Council on a vote of no confidence and the resignations of A. Franchuk, prime minister of the Crimean Government, and A. Senchenko, deputy prime minister of the Crimean Government, are in strict conformance with legal acts adopted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 17 March 1995, which fact was confirmed in examination of the question of resignation of these officials in plenary session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 24 March 1995.

That the actions of the entirety of the vertical power structure of Ukraine, primarily those of the enforcement structures of Ukraine in Crimea, which are aimed at preservation of the positions of A. Franchuk and A. Senchenko, who have been discharged, violate the legislation of Ukraine and of Crimea, discredit the legislative authority of Ukraine and Ukrainian statehood itself, and have as their objective not the observance of state interests, but favoritism and cronyism, an attempt to retain sympathetic individuals in power.

Such actions by the executive authority of Ukraine cannot help but arouse natural indignation and inflame the situation in Crimea. As a consequence, the already adverse relations between Crimea and Ukraine and between Ukraine and Russia may well become further complicated.

Union in Support of Crimea Party Issues Statement on Recent Events

954F1990D Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

["Statement of the Union in Support of the Crimean Republic Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 March the Supreme Council of Ukraine examined the issue: "The Political-Legal Situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea." The decisions it adopted are a natural consequence of the adventuristic policy of the former president and nonconstructive actions of the national-radical portion of the Crimean Supreme Council, singlemindedly leading the republic away from the constitutional field of Ukraine.

Taking up the weapons of populism, infeasible promises of the Russia preelection bloc, and separatism, the highest organs of power of Crimea have convincingly illustrated their political insolvency, discredited the "Crimean-Russian" idea, and left Crimeans alone to face the consequences of sociopolitical crisis and a most severe drought instead of the promised "ruble" pensions, unity with Russia, and a quick victory over crime. In less than a year, exploiting another's idea of "Crimea—a bridge between Ukraine and Russia," they sank to a position of direct appeals to the Russian Federation not to conclude a treaty with Ukraine. They have thus become the apple of discord and an obstacle along the difficult path of rapprochement between the two Slavic states.

In the political sphere, preference until recently was shown for direct-line methods of ultimatum. There was no consideration of the true situation in Russia, Ukraine, or Crimea. People's deputies of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, representing the interests of voters of the region, were virtually excluded from the negotiating process with the Ukrainian Supreme Council. Trust in their own infallibility, reliance on assistance from the "kind uncle," and dilettantism in adopting decisions brought the leadership of Crimea to the natural and deplorable result of loss of constitution, loss of the Law on Demarcation of Authority, and loss of a whole number of other legislative acts vitally important to the functioning of the republic.

As a result, Crimean society has been shoved backwards in its political development. The problems of breathing life into the idea of Crimean statehood remain unresolved. What remains is nationalism and separatism. Processes of integration are blocked. But these problems cannot be solved through confrontation and the exacerbation of relations, through a "war of laws."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Responsibility for this lies with the ex-president and the militant majority of the Crimean parliament.

Our party has repeatedly warned Crimeans of the political shortsightedness of the present Crimean leadership and the possible consequences of its improvident policy. Time and again practical measures for stabilizing the political situation were determined and conveyed to the Crimean leadership.

On 18 February, at the second congress of the Union in Support of the Crimean Republic Party [SPRK], we demanded the resignation of the president and the conduct of early elections to the Crimean Supreme Council. Today we again declare the expediency of resignation of the Supreme Council in the name of the well-being of the people to whom the current parliamentarians are so much in debt.

Understanding the need for tough measures to untangle the political situation in Crimea, the Presidium of the SPRK expresses its anxiety at the republic's loss of those rights and economic freedoms which were guaranteed it by the Law on Demarcation of Authority Between the Organs of Power of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic, and the Decree of the President of Ukraine on a Free Economy in the Crimean Republic, which afforded real opportunities for the establishment of market transformations.

We consider it necessary to return to this question within the framework of Ukraine's state regional policy.

However, the SPRK cannot agree with repeal of the Fundamental Law of the republic in its entirety. Repeal of the Crimean Law on Elections in the heat of the preelection campaign may lead to postponement of the elections of local organs of power, to violation of the electoral rights of citizens.

Despite the decisions of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, the Supreme Council of Crimea continues its previous policy instead of adopting them. The declaration it adopted 18 March states the intention to lift the moratorium on the referendum on the status of Crimea and marks the start of confrontation between Ukraine and Crimea.

Such actions can only lead to the destabilization of an already explosive situation on the peninsula.

Analysis of what has taken place shows that national-radical or social-radical policy today, no matter how attractive the garments in which it is clothed, runs counter to the true vital interests of the majority of the population.

Today society needs unity and consolidation, efforts to find reasonable political compromise. It is this unifying policy that is being pursued by political organizations guided by the ideology of active centrism.

We consider it impossible in the situation that has taken shape to hold elections to local organs of power prior to adoption of the republic constitution, and consider it expedient to schedule conduct of the elections in autumn 1995.

The Union in Support of the Crimean Republic confirms its resolute intention to persistently strive to realize its program principle "Crimea—a bridge between Ukraine and Russia," the federative structuring of Ukraine on the basis of a strong regional policy, affirmation of Russian as the official language, restoration of the lost posture of Crimean statehood, and other of its strategic objectives.

The SPRK will continue to stand above political ambitions and is prepared to cooperate constructively with the leadership of Crimea for the welfare of Crimeans and in support of the Crimean Republic!

[Signed] **Presidium of the Political Council of the SPRK**
21 March 1995

Economic Issues

IMF Approves $1.5 Billion Credit After Budget Approval

WS1004103795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0617 GMT 9 Apr 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Natalia Olynec and Fedir Storozhenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April. 8—The International Monetary Fund approved Saturday the allocation of a $1.5 billion standby credit to Ukraine. The credit comes in the wake of Parliament's approval Thursday of a 1995 budget that meets IMF requirements.

"The IMF does not regard the budget approval in current shape as a violation of terms of the credit allocation," said Alexander Sundakov, IMF deputy representative in Ukraine, after the budget was approved.

Ukraine should receive Wednesday $480 million, which includes the $365 million second tranche of the previously-approved System Transformation Facility (STF), a seven-year credit, and the $118 million first tranche of the standby 10-year credit, according to IMF officials. In two months Ukraine will receive another $365 million. Additional $365 million installments will be given every three months until the end of the first quarter of 1996. Another standby loan might be negotiated in the first quarter of 1996, according to IMF officials in Kiev. Although the first tranche of the 10-year, 6 percent credit was expected during the first quarter, the IMF decided March 29 to postpone the allocation of the credit because of last-minute qualms over whether Parliament would pass a budget meeting IMF specifications.

The 7.3 percentage of GDP budget deficit approved in the first reading of the budget fell short of IMF requirements. Ukrainian officials included foreign debt servicing on the expenditure side. If this item is excluded, the approved deficit equals 4.6 percent—still short of the IMF requirement of 3.2 percent. An additional law adopted Thursday

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

reshuffling both the revenue and expenditure sides of the equation promises to adjust the deficit to required levels. The law raises external debt servicing payments and lowers domestic expenditures by KBV [karbovantsi] 60 trillion.

The credit will be used to support Ukraine's balance of payments. The government is free to decide how to use the credit but 50 percent will go to support the external reserves of the National Bank—in essence, it will not be used.

Graham Justice, IMF senior representative to Ukraine, said the credit is critical in renewing confidence in the Ukrainian economy.

"Currently, there is a KBV 5.5 billion gap in imports. It is hard to see how they (Ukraine) could manage without this level of financing. Budget revenue is already a large burden to the population," Justice said.

Officials React to IMF Credit

WS1004105395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0617 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 8—Some members of Parliament said the International Monetary Fund's Saturday approval of $1.5 billion in credit for Ukraine is no better than supplying a junkie with a narcotic fix.

"I am against the IMF aid," said Oleksandra Kuzhel, deputy head of the Parliament Committee for economic policy and national economy management. "It has never benefited any state to which it was granted. This is because one of the conditions under which the IMF credits are granted is a strict monetary policy and this means a lack of possibilities to live better."

The IMF granted the money despite postponing the payment because of fears that Parliament would not pass a budget that included a 3.2 percent deficit. But negotiations last week to shuffle the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget will achieve the required level.

Yuriy Boldyrev, member of the Parliament's Budget Committee, said: "the IMF credits means to accustom us to money as to narcotics without which we could not live. We have already have one narcotic—Russian gas, now we are going to have two."

But others were optimistic about the IMF funding.

"This decision resulted from the significant efforts from the side of Ukrainian leaders. Now we can negotiate as an equal with Iran and Turkmenistan," said Foreign Affairs Ministry Hennadiy Udovenko. "The credits received by Ukraine are, among other things, for the coverage of debts to Russia and Turkmenistan. We hope that now Ukraine is going to have more confidence in the world and private capital will start coming to Ukraine."

Presidential Aides Comment on Kuchma Economic Report

AU1004093695 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 6 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Medunytsya: "Briefing at the Presidential Administration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is a normal phenomenon in all civilized countries for the top-level state official to submit an annual economic report to the parliament. Therefore, the written report by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and his address to the Supreme Council have marked a new stage in building democratic institutions. Anatoliy Halchynskyy, Ukrainian presidential adviser for macroeconomic issues; Oleksandr Razumkov, first presidential assistant; and Mykhaylo Doroshenko, Ukrainian presidential press secretary stressed this at a briefing held at the Ukrainian Presidential Administration.

The report provides a fundamental analysis of the economic situation in Ukraine and points out, in particular, that our society has passed the lowest point of the economic crisis and that a basis for stabilization is gradually reemerging.

According to A. Halchynskyy, the president has outlined a comprehensive approach toward all social constituents of life, since one can only expect a stabilization after balancing all aspects of sociopolitical, economic, and social problems. In the opinion of experts, Leonid Kuchma's April report and his address to the parliament are a logical continuation of the presidential program made public in October 1994. The only difference lies in the fact that, in the fall, the economic and political ideology and strategy for implementing market transformations were specified, while now, the stress is on their practical implementation and concrete measures to be taken by the power structures with results to be felt in the very near future. That is why, in A. Halchynskyy's opinion, such a philosophy of statehood makes Ukraine's policy predictable both in the domestic and external arenas.

"A tentative analysis of the results of activities over the past year has been made," pointed out Oleksandr Razumkov, "in order to overcome the crisis of state power that was due to some contradictions between its various branches and also due to the uncertain position occupied by the Supreme Council regarding the adoption of important legislative acts, which might remove those problems. That is why, today, an extremely great significance is attached to drafting corresponding decisions for the future. [no ending quote as published]

It was stressed that, in his address, the president had focused on four major problems. First, overcoming the economic crisis and implementing the principles of the new economic policy. Second, building a strong democratic state. Third, maintaining civic peace and harmony in Ukraine. Fourth, forming a favorable external environment that would promote a stabilization of the situation in our society.

Civic peace in Ukrainian society is a fundamental position occupied by our president. That is why the lack of certainty on the issue of the government is a great problem for our state. Implementation of the proclaimed theses will depend entirely upon the position of the presidential team and coordination of actions among all

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

branches of power. In this connection, A. Halchynskyy stated that, no matter what the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers is going to be, the reform nucleus, formed over the years of independence, will play a determining role in it. This will contribute to Ukraine's positive image among the world community.

Shrinking Foreign Investment Said Caused by 'Instability'

WS1004103395 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0857 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The City Telerate agency, referring to information received from the Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics, has reported that in 1994, the Ministry of Finances registered 3,042 foreign investments with the total sum of $0.6 billion, as opposed to 3,500 investments registered in 1993. The entire amount of investments made in 1993 was $1 billion. In 1994, the volume of foreign investments in the Ukrainian economy decreased by 13.1 percent compared with 1993, while the amount of the invested capital went down by 41.2 percent. In 1993, the amount of registered foreign investment in the Ukrainian economy was 4 percent of the GNP, while in 1994 this amount decreased by over twofold. Some foreign investors have contributed only from 10 to 20 percent of the registered amount of investment. Leonid Romanenko, deputy head of the Department of Foreign Investments and Loans at the Ministry of the Economy, believes that this situation was caused by a number of objective factors. Among these are political and socioeconomic instability, difficulties with returning the profit, complications in property privatization, and continual deterioration of economic situation. However, in his interview with the City Telerate agency Romanenko stated that the current situation with foreign investments should not lead only to pessimistic speculation; it should initiate the search for means aimed to overcome this negative tendency.

Package of Bills To Liberalize Customs Rules Submitted

WS1004105495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0146 GMT 10 Apr 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Ihor Zhyhyr]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 9—The State Customs Committee recently submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers a package of bills liberalizing customs regulations to accelerate Ukraine's membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and to implement the Customs Convention of the International Customs Organization, Yuriy Kravchenko, Customs Committee leader, told foreign diplomats.

"We understand the time has come to make these steps," he said. "Ukraine's customs regulations should be simplified."

The complexity of Ukrainian customs regulation has been increasing since independence. Ukraine began controlling its borders with Russia, Belarus and Moldova in 1992 and the customs system increased to 263 checkpoints, employing 14,500 workers.

The committee is focusing on controlling the eastern borders, because "there is a crucial smuggling situation at Ukrainian borders with CIS countries," Kravchenko said.

Six tons of drugs and 2,000 firearms were confiscated at Ukrainian borders in 1994, according to the Customs Committee and the Internal Affairs Ministry. "Dealers try to smuggle non-ferrous metals and currency in the Baltic countries and Poland, and Ukraine is considered by drug traffickers as a route from Latin America to Europe," Kravchenko said.

The Customs Committee has agreements on cooperation with all CIS and European countries except Romania, which refuses to sign the agreement because it has territorial claims against Ukraine, according to the official.

The State Customs Committee was formed in 1991 and has the status of a ministry because it is directly subordinate to the president, Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Belarus

Lukashenka's Election Procedure Edict Seen as Antidemocratic

MK0804111295 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Yuras Karmanov under the "Belarus" rubric: "Alyaksandr Lukashenka Wants To Be Future Parliament's Father. The Constitutional Court May Be in His Way"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago, President Lukashenka's edict on ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates during the election campaign was made public. Executive committees at all levels—from oblast to village—are instructed "to register cases of canvassing aimed at kindling social, national or religious hatred; of calls to forcibly seize power and change the constitutional system; and so forth. The collected materials should be sent to law-enforcement bodies so that legal action can be taken against persons guilty of such conduct." The vagueness of the edict's formulations provides virtually unlimited powers to those who still value the president's honor. For instance, the program of any candidate that criticizes the president's policy (and, as sociologists forecast, most programs will be precisely of this kind) would, most probably, fall under the category of kindling social hatred and so forth. Lukashenka also forbids candidates "to advertise their names" and, correspondingly, their programs, using National Television and Radio as well as newspapers of republic-wide status. According to the edict, candidates must confine themselves exclusively to the use of local mass media, with air time and size of publications being strictly limited. The edict also comprises a provision banning any direct or indirect participation of political parties, public associations, or enterprises in financing or giving any other material support to candidates. A violation of this requirement will entail the denial of registration, its cancellation, or invalidation of the election results; for businesspersons, it will mean a ban on their activities; and for juridical persons, it will mean liquidation. The mission of overseeing the edict's observance is entrusted—in addition to the above-mentioned executive committees—to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Central Electoral Commission, the Committee for Corruption Control, the Cabinet of Ministers' Main State Tax Inspectorate, and Belarusian General Prosecutor Vasil Sholodonov. (The latter, incidentally—in solidarity with Vladimir Yegorov, the KGB chief—is a candidate for deputy, despite the fact that, according to paragraph 8 of the edict, public servants must suspend execution of their duties for the period of their participation in the election. If they are elected to parliament, they must resign from their previous positions).

Zenon Poznyak, leader of the democratic opposition—the Belarusian People's Front (BPF)—in the parliament, commenting on the presidential edict, felt confident that its text would definitely draw the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the European Parliament, and the Council of Europe. Citing the Constitutional articles violated by Lukashenka's edict, Poznyak emphasized that such an edict could appear only in a country with a junta in power. Former parliament Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich noted that the appearance of this edict also evokes surprise because a Law on the Election of People's Deputies—which regulates all the aspects of the parliamentary campaign—has already been adopted in Belarus. Alyaksandr Dobrovolskiy, leader of the United Democratic Party of Belarus, was also critical of the edict. As for left-wing parties, they categorically refused to comment on the edict.

In the opinion of observers, the presidential edict is a logical continuation of the campaign, previously launched by Lukashenka, to form the future parliament. One of the first steps toward this goal was the idea of holding a republic-wide referendum on the same day as the election. The questions proposed by Lukashenka for the plebiscite are no different from the slogans of Belarus' pro-communist parties, which, for several years, have been demanding alteration of the national symbols; giving Russian the status of a state language; restoration of the USSR through closer integration with Russia; and so forth. Thus, focusing the electors' attention on these issues will automatically shift the future parliament to the left, while the attempts of Lukashenka—who has finally made up his mind as to what his preferences are—to cooperate with democrats will prove fruitless. One can only guess about the degree of confrontation between Belarus' democratic parties and its pro- communist parties, who have gained president's support. Lukashenka's latest statement, made in Mogilev, that he might be ready to use Bolshevik methods in his actions are in line with this scheme.

The parliament, however, has not yet approved either the questions nor even the possibility of holding the referendum—therefore, the future of the presidential initiative is unclear. In any case, existing Belarusian legislation does not permit a referendum on the question of the state language, and the Constitution does not grant the president the right to dissolve the parliament. Lukashenka, however, has already demonstrated his peculiar interpretation of the Belarus Constitution more than once, saying that it is rather vague.

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's information, which it received from the president's administration, two edicts on the dissolution of the parliament have already been prepared and are now on Lukashenka's desk. The situation can probably only be clarified by the Constitutional Court, which has already received many deputies' requests to examine presidential edicts as to their compliance with the Constitution. And one last thing: Elizabeth Schreuder, the head of a European Parliament delegation, who visited Belarus to examine the human rights situation, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that she was impressed by the level of democracy in Belarus.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hryb Says Nation 'Explicitly Against' Neighbors' NATO Role

WS1004091095 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarus is explicitly against its neighbors—the Baltic states and Poland—joining NATO. Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb told journalists in Vilnius. Joining political or military structures is an internal affair of any state, said the Belarusian parliament chairman, who was in the Lithuanian capital on a visit. Mr. Hryb noted, however, that Belarus will find itself on the old standoff line between two different structures. We have already been through this, and we are now openly and frankly expressing our opinion. Lithuania and Belarus meet all the conditions for being good neighbors, he emphasized. After we gained independence, we started to look for friends overseas, while they should have been sought among neighbors in the first place, Hryb noted.

Hryb Visits Vilnius, Discusses Klaipeda Port

WS0704101195 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb and an accompanying delegation, arrived for an official two-day visit in Vilnius on 6 April, and went directly to a Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] plenary session, where [words indistinct] they were met by Lithuanian parliamentarians. Following this, the speakers of both parliaments held talks. According to Seimas speaker Ceslovas Jursenas, since Belarus is a landlocked country, Hryb said that his country would like to use the port of Klaipeda on the Baltic Sea for exporting Belarusian products to the West. Lithuania supports this idea, and is willing to meet Minsk halfway in this respect. The sides also exchanged opinions on relations between the speakers and parliaments of both countries and the heads of states.

In the afternoon, the (?high) Belarusian visitor met with members of the Seimas committee for foreign relations, and with faction representatives of both the ruling and opposition parties in the Lithuanian parliament.

Parliament To Discuss Referendum

LD1004095095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0923 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk April 10 TASS—Following a two-week interval, the Belarusian parliament resumed its session in minsk on Monday and the question on holding a nationwide referendum, proposed by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, is to become the main item of the agenda.

The Belarusian leader suggests that the nation-wide poll on granting the russian language the status of the second state language of Belarus, on adopting new state symbols, on economic integration with Russia, as well as on granting the president the right to dissolve parliament should be held on May 14, simultaneously with general elections to a new parliament.

If the parliament agrees with the first three questions, Lukashenka is ready to withdraw the fourth one.

Supporters and opponents of the referendum gathered in independence square in front of the government house where legislators sit in session. The first came there under red Soviet flags, their opponents—under the present state flag of Belarus.

Scope of Cabinet of Ministers' Powers Detailed

WS0704103095 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Henrykh Kumpitski, deputy chief of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers' Administration: "The Cabinet of Ministers: Scope of Powers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foundation of our country's constitutional system has been determined by the new Belarusian Constitution adopted on 15 March, 1994, Article 6 of which says that the "state is based on the system of division of legislative, executive, and judicial powers." In compliance with the basic law, the laws on the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, the president, and the Cabinet of Ministers have been adopted, and the creation of the legal groundwork, defining and dividing powers wielded by the legislative and executive powers, has been basically completed.

The Constitution says that the president is head of the state and the executive power, while the Cabinet of Ministers, subordinated and answerable directly to the president, executes powers, as does the executive branch, in the spheres of economics, foreign policy, defense, national security, and protection of public order, and other fields of state governing. At the same time, Article 1 of the Belarusian Constitution specifies that the Cabinet of Ministers—the Belarusian Government—is the Republic's central body of executive power. It is authorized to single-handedly resolve all issues pertaining to state governing that lie within its competence. It is a collective executive and administrative body in charge of coordinating, overseeing, and ensuring the organizational coherence and concerted activities of the system of Belarusian central government institutions, and local and executive bodies. Ministries and other central government institutions report to it on results of their work.

According to the law, Cabinet of Ministers' decisions are obligatory to all the ministries and other central government bodies, local executive and administrative bodies, enterprises, organizations, official institutions, and citizens throughout Belarusian territory.

Proceeding from this fact, the Cabinet of Ministers' competence has been determined in the spheres of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

economics, finances, labor, education, health care, culture, social protection, science, environmental protection, protection of law and order, and the security and defense potential of our state.

Also, new procedures for forming the Cabinet of Ministers have been legally established. The government structure was approved by the president's edict issued on 3 August 1994. It was later detailed by other edicts. From now on, the Cabinet of Ministers will consist of the prime minister, his deputies, 27 ministers, and the KGB chairman. Compared with the personnel lineup of the previous Cabinet of Ministers, the reduction is visible: Instead of eight deputies, the Cabinet of Ministers chairman now has only five. Also reduced was the number of other central government institutions: As of 25 March, there are only 28 of them. The Ministries of Construction and Use of Automobile Roads, Industry, Construction Materials, and Bakery, as well as the Committee for Sports, and 20 independent committees at the Cabinet of Ministers have been eliminated.

The president, his deputies, ministers of foreign affairs, finance, defense, and internal affairs, and the KGB chairman are appointed and discharged by the president upon permission given by the Supreme Soviet. Other Cabinet of Ministers members, deputy ministers of foreign affairs, finance, defense, and internal affairs, and the KGB deputy chairman are appointed and discharged by the Belarusian president. Other deputy ministers and their deputies are appointed and discharged by the Cabinet of Ministers with permission from the Belarusian president. The Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers has been basically completed. Its collegium, comprising the prime minister, his deputies, and the ministers of finance, foreign affairs, and internal affairs, has already been approved.

The new law has substantially expanded the article about powers granted to the ministries and other central government institutions and their heads, but it also provided for more responsibility for the condition of the institutions they manage. Normative acts adopted by ministries and other Belarusian central government institutions within their competence and concerning enterprises, organizations, and institutions of a different type of ownership are mandatory for them, provided that these acts were registered by the Justice Ministry. Ministers and heads of other central government bodies have the right to single- handedly approve a structure and the staffing of their organizations. Also approved were the guarantees for legal and social protection of the prime minister, Cabinet of Ministers members, their status, and procedures for their resignation. In spite of certain social and legal protection guarantees, Cabinet of Ministers members have no right to be elected legislative deputy, engage in business, and perform paid work other than teaching and creative activities. This is a generally accepted norm in international legislation. In our country, however, this approach has been applied for the first time. The perception is that the situation where an individual, an official, feels that he is protected by the law should bring positive results.

Since the new Belarusian Constitution has installed a presidential system of government, the Cabinet of Ministers does not have the right to legislative initiative (the former Cabinet of Ministers did have this right). In the present situation, the right to legislative initiative has been granted to the president as head of the executive power.

By law, work on draft laws requested by the Supreme Soviet or the president should be organized by the Cabinet of Ministers. Relevant articles specify relations among the Cabinet of Ministers, the Supreme Soviet, and the president. The Supreme Soviet has the right to hear a report by any member of the government concerning only implementation of Belarusian laws. The head of the president's administration has the right to participate in meetings held by the Cabinet of Ministers and institutions subordinated to it, but the government is not subordinated to the president's administration. Thus, such an arrangement ensures necessary interaction, availability of information, and openness in the Cabinet of Ministers' activities. At the same time, the law eliminates unnecessary duplication and bureaucracy in governing the state.

Compared with the previous law on the Cabinet of Ministers, the present government has practically retained its rights in its relations with local executive and administrative institutions. Being the Belarusian Government, the Cabinet of Ministers has the right to coordinate and provide guidelines for the activities of local executive and administrative bodies and control their work, and its other responsibility is to regulate issues pertaining to its relations with ministries and other central government institutions.

The law provides for the creation of a government administration to support activities conducted by the Cabinet of Ministers, which approves the statute regulating its operations.

Summing up, one can say that the adopted law grants the Cabinet of Ministers all the powers that the Belarusian Government should have, regulates its activities in strict compliance with the Constitution, and is intended to improve executive power, discipline, and accountability at all levels of government.

New Deputy Foreign Minister To Mind Security, Arms Control

LD0804170595 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0600 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the republic's Foreign Ministry now has a new deputy. This post has been taken by Andrey Sannikaw who is a professional diplomat. He gave an interview today to the newspaper SOVETSKAYA BELARUSSIYA. Andrey Sannikaw told

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a correspondent that in the ministry he will look after the issues of international security and control over armaments.

Minsk Suspends Implementation of Conventional Arms Treaty

LD0704195195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 7 (Interfax-West)—The decision of Minsk to suspend liquidation of armaments in accordance with the treaty on conventional armaments in Europe does not contradict this document because the economic difficulties through which Belarus is now going, represent a threat to its national security, Belarussian First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Tsepkalo told Interfax today.

He said one of the treaty's provisions provided for possible suspension of its implementation in case of a threat to national security of the country in any sphere, including the military, economic and political spheres.

Tsepkalo said that the Belarussian government had to choose between spending money on liquidating armaments or on buying medicaments in order to maintain the nation's health.

He said Minsk was ready to renew liquidation of armaments if financial funds were found. Tsepkalo stressed that "despite all difficulties Belarus has fulfilled its obligations under the treaty by two thirds."

Tsepkalo said the decision of Minsk was not unexpected for the West. He said Belarussian representatives had repeatedly raised the issue of financial problems, involving the treaty's implementation, during the meetings of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. He said Minsk had proposed that a special financial fund be created. Tsepkalo regretted that the initiative had not been supported.

First Deputy Speaker Vacates Post To Become Ambassador

LD1004095195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk April 10 TASS—The Belarusian Parliament relieved its First deputy Speaker Vyacheslav Kuznetsov of his duties Monday after he was appointed the Belarusian ambassador to China.

Moldova

Reaction to Shumeyko Statement on Withdrawal of 14th Army

LD0704194695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, April 7 (Interfax-West)—The Transdnestr authorities hope that the statement by Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko on the need to immediately withdraw the 14th Army from the region "reflected his own point of view rather than the entire Russian leadership's opinion."

In their address to the Russian leadership published in Tiraspol Friday, they emphasized that "the recently held referendum attended by State Duma deputies as observers will enable Russia to make a well-balanced and prudent decision."

According to the address, "Moldova was one of the first to sign to the NATO program Partnership for Peace, and Russia should think over Moldova's intensive integration in the NATO structures."

Shumeyko went on an official visit to Chisinau on April 5 and made a statement on the need to withdraw the 14th Army as soon as possible.

Dniester Leaders, 14th Army 'Shocked' by Shumeyko Statement

AU0804182095 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1954 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, INFOTAG, 7/4/1995—Grigore Marakuta, Dniester parliament chairman, expressed bewilderment about the statements of Vladimir Shumeyko, Chairman of the Russian Council of the Federation, concerning the withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army from the region. During his recent visit to Chisinau, the Chairman of the Russian Parliament's Upper Chamber stated the Army shall be removed in accordance with earlier agreements, notwithstanding Tiraspol's will.

Marakuta said to INFOTAG that Shumeyko's statement "shocked not only the Tiraspol leadership, but also the 14th Army servicemen, who do not wish to become unemployed in Russia, and fear an uncertainty about their further fate".

"Our attitude remains unchanged. To cancel any accusations that this is, allegedly, only the wish of 'a handful of leaders', we organized a referendum, and people said definitely they are against the army withdrawal. We shall convey the people' opinion to the Russian leadership, and shall act in accordance with the people's will", Marakuta stressed.

In his opinion, Shumeyko's statements indicate the inconsistency of Russia's stance and its non-observance

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the Moldovan-Russian Agreement on conflict settlement signed on July 21, 1992.

"This document stipulates all stages of the conflict settlement. There is a provision there that the army shall be withdrawn only after Dniester's legal status is defined. But the status negotiations have been practically stopped, which is Chisinau's fault", Marakuta said.

He expressed hope that Shumeiko's words are not yet the official stance of Russia.

"I can understand the United States and other Western powers who have military bases all over the world, and are dreaming to have the Russian troops removed. But I cannot understand Russia. We believe, the most optimum variant of solving the problem would be granting to the 14th Army the status of a Russian military base on the Dniester territory", the Tiraspol leader said.

The Dniester administration distributed an official statement today regarding the speech of Vladimir Shumeyko in the Moldovan Parliament last Wednesday.

The document contains hope that the Moscow guest's sayings about the necessity to immediately evacuate from Dniester the armaments and machinery of the 14th Army "reflect only his personal point of view, not that of the Russian leadership".

The statement reads that "the results of the recent referendum, with Russian parliamentarians present as observers, will allow Russia to take a well thought-out, sober decision, to not betray the Dniestrian people who believe in Russia and view its Army as the only guarantor of peace and stability in the region".

"Moldova was among the first countries to have signed the Partnership for Peace Programme, and Russia should think over the fact of Moldova's speedy integration into NATO structures, due to which the NATO's influence approaches dangerously close to Russian borders", the document warns.

Russian-Ukrainian Talks Held on Army Hardware Pullout

AU0704161095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1951 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 5/4/1995—The withdrawal of three Russian military engineer subdivisions that are not part of the 14th Army has not been resumed, BASA learned from the Moldovan Defense Ministry. Negotiations are being conducted between Moscow and Kiev regarding the transit of Ukraine by the Russian troops military hardware. Valeriy Zibrov, adviser of the Russian Embassy to Chisinau, told BASA that these negotiations are now being conducted and that they have a bilateral character. According to Zibrov, Chisinau representatives are also involved in the negotiations. Government sources relayed that the military delegation that participated in the 14th Army withdrawal talks are taking part in these negotiations. So far, four trains of military equipment were shipped to Russia out of 21 scheduled to be withdrawn by July.

Foreign Minister Popov on Cooperation With OSCE

LD0704204995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1720 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 7 (Interfax)—Moldova is extremely interested in cooperating with the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] which is one of the priorities in the Moldovan foreign policy, Moldovan Foreign Minister Mihail Popov told Interfax in an interview today.

He said that if the conflict in the Transdniester Region was settled the OSCE would be the main guarantor for the tragedy of 1992 never to be repeated.

Popov said he was glad that the mandate of the OSCE permanent mission in Moldova which ought to have expired in 1994, had been extended for another year. He said the OSCE mission had prepared about 30 reports on the situation in the republic. He said that the talks on settlement of the conflict in the Transdniester Region were based on the 13th report of the OSCE mission. Popov said the report fixed the basic formulas for settling the conflict within single Moldova and granting to the Transdniester Region the wide rights of an autonomy.

Popov said Chisinau counted on the OSCE as far as implementation of the agreements on withdrawing the Russian 14th Army from Moldova was concerned.

Protesting Students Demand Government's Resignation

AU0804154395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1827 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 6/4/1995—The chief demand of the students on strike is now the resignation of the government, Oleg Cernei, chairman of the Students League, announced at today's rally in the city center.

The reason for shifting accents is the protesters' discontent about the government's slow actions. They stated that during almost three weeks of the strike, which was joined by some state employees and industrial workers, the executive power has not satisfied to the end even a single of the strikers' socio-economic demands.

The strike committee members believe there was a possibility to impose a moratorium on street manifestations—after their meeting with President Mircea Snegur

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

several days ago. However, the commission he set up also failed to solve anything. And the mission sittings scheduled for yesterday and today jointly with the strike committee were postponed.

The participants of today's rally at the central square strongly criticized Parliament, too. The students are annoyed that the forum did not take any measures to satisfy the strikers' demands, and, moreover, condemned their actions and suspended its session till 18 April.

The strikers keep on demanding to alter Article 13 of the Constitution so that to rename the official language from Moldovan back to Romanian. In their opinion, only the language renaming will serve a guarantee that "study programs shall not be falsified for the benefit of momentary political interests."

Alongside with demanding the resignation of the government, the students proceeded to a non-stop active strike. They put up several tents in front of the government building, having decided that small groups of protesters will spend nights there. Active mass-scale manifestations, with blocking the traffic in the city main street, are undertaken daily in a strict accordance with the now traditional time-table: from 1000 to 1300 hours.

Strike Committee Concerned About Drop in Number of Strikers

AU0804181295 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1954 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 7/4/1995—At today's sitting, the all-republican strike committee voted to continue the strike till all their demands are satisfied. Also, they acknowledged a necessity to speed up raising signatures in support of amending Article 13 of the Moldovan constitution. By law, an issue has to have 200,000 signatures to be submitted for Parliament's consideration.

The committee has drawn up a schedule of students' participation in non-stop, round the-clock strike. For this purpose, the students put up a tent camp in front of the Government Building at the central square.

Today, the strike committee expressed concern about the diminishing number of active protesters in the streets. On Friday, they said, only several thousands supporters arrived at the central square, and, unlike in previous days, they gathered only around the tents, and failed to stop the city traffic even for a moment.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kazakhstan

Almaty Protests Tajik Opposition Attack on Peacekeepers

LD0904151495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—The Kazakh Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Sunday voicing "strong protest" against the Tajik opposition's attack on Russian and Kazakh soldiers in the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan on Friday [7 April].

The ministry urged the Afghan leadership to "take all necessary measures to settle the situation on the Afghan-Tajik border and prevent a recurrence of such actions on the part of Tajik opposition militants based in Afghanistan in the future."

Kazakh soldiers are serving in Tajikistan as part of the CIS collective peace-keeping force protecting the Tajik-Afghan border.

A Kazakh official delegation is due to arrive in Dushanbe on Sunday to pay tribute to the Kazakh soldiers killed in the attack. They will also arrange for the transportation of their bodies to Kazakhstan.

The accident occurred on Friday when a military convoy of about 200 Russian and Kazakh troops came under heavy artillery fire near Kalaikhumb in the Gorno-Badakhshan region. As a result, 14 soldiers were killed, five more died later from wounds, and 26 wounded.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov held an emergency session of the government on Sunday to discuss the situation. The government described the situation as "extremely critical and requiring emergency efforts" to reach stabilisation on the Afghan-Tajik border.

Edict on Forming Customs Committee

954F2028A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

["Edict of the President of the Kazakhstan Republic: On Formation of the Customs Committee of the Kazakhstan Republic Cabinet of Ministers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of improving the system of state government and enhancing the operational effectiveness of the customs service of the Kazakhstan Republic, I decree:

1. To form the Customs Committee of the Kazakhstan Republic Cabinet of Ministers, based on the eliminated Main Customs Administration of the Kazakhstan Republic Ministry of Finance.

2. To establish that the Customs Committee of the Kazakhstan Republic Cabinet of Ministers:

exercises state direction of customs matters in the Kazakhstan Republic;

directs the activity of republic customs organs in accordance with legislation and international treaties of the Kazakhstan Republic;

constitutes the legal successor to property rights of the eliminated Main Customs Administration of the Kazakhstan Republic Ministry of Finance.

3. That the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kazakhstan Republic shall, within one month:

determine the numerical strength of the Customs Committee of the Kazakhstan Republic Cabinet of Ministers, and resolve matters pertaining to its location and provision to it of material and technical support;

confirm the Statute on the Customs Committee of the Kazakhstan Republic Cabinet of Ministers;

bring into conformance with this edict government acts on matters pertaining to the organization and activity of the customs service.

4. To insert the following changes to Edict of the President of the Kazakhstan Republic No. 963, dated 12 November 1992, "On Reorganization of the Financial, Tax, and Customs Services of the Kazakhstan Republic" (SAPP RESPUBLIKI KAZAKHSTAN. 1992, No. 42, Art. 619):

to declare the last paragraph of Point 1 as no longer in effect;

to delete from Point 2 the words: "and the Customs Committee of the Kazakhstan Republic—into the Main Customs Administration of the Kazakhstan Republic Ministry of Finance."

5. This edict enters into force as of its date of publication.

[Signed] President of the Kazakhstan Republic N. NAZARBAYEV Almaty, 1 April 1995

Appointments

By decree of the president of Kazakhstan, Yerkeshbay Zhaylaubayevich Derbisov is appointed chairman of the Customs Committee of the Cabinet of Ministers.

By decree of the president of Kazakhstan, Marat Turdybekovich Ospanov is appointed chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Committee on the Use of Foreign Capital.

Resolution on National Referendum

954F2027A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

["Resolution of the first session of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan: On the Nationwide Referendum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many peoples of the former USSR are experiencing a tragic time of interethnic and intraethnic conflicts, which are bringing death to hundreds of thousands and destruction to their native lands.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kazakhstan, because of the president's balanced policy, his devotion to democratic transformations, and his observance of the balance of interests of all peoples of the republic, has avoided bloodshed and interethnic strife and has maintained peace and tranquility. Not only the peoples of Kazakhstan but also other peoples of the CIS link their hopes for Eurasian integration to the name of Nazarbayev.

Our society, having entered on the path of reform, is going through a difficult stage of economic and political transformation. There have been signs of improvement of the economy, there has been a marked reduction of inflation, and the national currency has become more stable. The strategic course of the president of the republic has begun to produce its first positive results. It is becoming obvious that the selected course will be producing an ever greater positive result as the years go by.

The regular presidential elections are to be held at the end of next year. But certain political forces even today, almost two years before the elections, are getting their election campaign underway and creating unhealthy agitation. And they will use any means for the sake of political dividends, giving no consideration to the threat of the breaking up of society or the violation of the interethnic accord and unity of the nation. The seizure of power by people who do not have sufficient knowledge or skills of state management could undermine the process of stabilization of the economy and Kazakhstan's establishment as a sovereign state. Doubts are being expressed about the correctness of the foreign political and domestic political course chosen by the president. The people must come up with their own answers to these questions.

The Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan, guided by the highest interests of reinforcing stability and interethnic accord and the objective need to provide for the primacy of the course of reform, in the name of preventing a split in society during the struggle for presidential power under the conditions of the absence of a worthy alternative to the candidacy of N.A. Nazarbayev, insistently recommends that the republic president in the near future conduct a nationwide referendum to extend his term of office until the year 2000.

Almaty, 24 March 1995

Tajikistan

Opposition Launches Assault From Tajik-Afghan Border Region

Russian Commander Describes 'Provocation'

LD0804093495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 8 TASS—Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, described an armed provocation against Russian borderguards, which was committed at the Badakhshan section (Pamir mountains) of the Tajik-Afghan border on April 7, as the start of implementing a plan for large-scale spring-summer combat operations by the irreconcilable Tajik opposition.

The general made this statement at an urgently-held news conference on Saturday, stressing that allegations by the leaders of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan about their commitment to a political settlement of the intra-Tajik conflict are either phoney words or they do not control actions by their field commanders.

According to the general, an armed group of field commander Dzhunaidullo numbering 50, which is based in the border Afghan village of Moimai, treacherously attacked an armoured convoy of russian borderguards from the afghan territory at the right flank of the sixth post of the Kalaikhumskiy border detachment.

Murderous fire from recoilless guns and grenade launchers was opened on the convoy, driving along the border. Borderguards who were reinforced by a group from the Kazakh battalion, were forced to join the battle which lasted till complete destruction of enemy firing positions.

Asked about losses, Chechulin said that they were considerable and that they are being specified now.

He said that the command notified of the armed provocation U.N. military observers and the republican government, which should express their attitude to the above incident. Chechulin expressed hope that the Tajik government will take more active measures to participate in the protection of the pamirs section of the Tajik-Afghan border.

Government Protests to Afghan Authorities

LD0804133795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 8 TASS—An official protest of the Tajik Government was launched today to the Afghan authorities in connection with the use of Afghan territory by Tajik opposition militants for attacks at Russian border guards.

According to the statement circulated here today, the provocative artillery shelling of Russian border guards at the Kalaikhum section of the Tajik-Afghan border on Friday is "a new link in the chain of illegal aggressive actions of the opposition and an attempt to break the inter-Tajik political settlement." The document stresses that these actions run counter to "the pronouncements of the Tajik opposition leader claiming their striving for peaceful settlement of the Tajik problem."

Armed groups of the opposition and armaments are being concentrated on Afghan territory close to the Tajik

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

border. The on-going illegal border trespassing testifies to preparations for another coil of escalation of tension on the Tajik-Afghan border, says the statement.

'More Than 10' Border Guards Killed

LD0804143495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 8 ITAR-TASS—More than ten border guards were killed and some were severely wounded in the Friday shelling of the armour column of Russian border troops by Tajik rebels, ITAR-TASS was told today on the telephone by the troops' press service.

The press service said the exact number of casualties remained to be ascertained as they were transported in a helicopter to the nearest district centre Darwaz, 300 km from Dushanbe.

Air links with Darwaz have been severed now by bad weather.

The assault appears to be pre-planned and carried out by an armed group of 50 under Field-Commander Junaidullo.

The armoured column, which included a reinforcement from Kazakhstan's peacekeeping battalion, was shelled at the right flank of post no. 6 of the Kalaikhum border headquarters.

Fighting which followed lasted for six hours. Fire of Tajik rebels was suppressed at 18:00 Friday.

Further on Border Guard Casualties

LD0804154195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1457 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 8 Apr (TASS)—As a result of a massive shelling on Friday [7 April] by the Tajik opposition of an armored convoy, numbering about 200 people and consisting of Russian border troops and the reinforcement group of a Kazakhstan battalion, 14 people were killed, ITAR-TASS was told today by the press group of the command of the Russian border troops in Dushanbe. Later five more people died from wounds.

Among those killed there was a civilian Tajik driver, four Tajik servicemen from the group of the Russian border troops and the remaining were servicemen of the Kazakhstan battalion. Twenty six people were wounded, they are currently in the clinic in the District centre Darvaz (300 km from Dushanbe). The press center said as soon as the weather in the region is good for flying, all those wounded would be transferred to the military hospital in Dushanbe.

'Militants' Continue Shelling

LD0804154295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 8 TASS—A Russian border unit has been again attacked by Tajik militants today.

As of 7 p.m. (Moscow time), a fighting with mojahedin had been on for five hours in the zone of the Khorog border unit, sources at the press group of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS.

The attack was again made from Afghan territory in the area of the Dashti-Yazgulem settlement, Gorno-Badakhshan. Artillery and fire arms shelling of the border guards is being done by the group of Field Commander Zainiddin with a strength of up to 150 men. The group is subordinated to the so-called commander of the Pamirs self-defence forces General Salamsho. There have been no reports on casualties.

Border Situation 'Extremely Tense'

LD0804195395 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation remains extremely tense on the Tajik-Afghan border for the second day running. Another attack was made today—this time on one of the Russian border posts in the Gorno-Badakhshan area. At 2000 Moscow time [1600 GMT] fighting was continuing. The post is being shot at by large-caliber machine-guns, grenade-launchers, and rifles. Firing is coming in both from Afghan and Tajik territory. On the Afghan side the detachment of fighters is being led by field commander (Junayd Dullo) while on the Tajik side they are led by General Salamsho. According to information which Moscow Echo radio possesses, two Russian border guards have been killed and six wounded. [passage omitted]

Opposition Still Shelling Dashti-Yazgulem

LD0904080795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0606 GMT 9 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 9 TASS—The situation in the Pamirs sector of the Tajik-Afghan border remains extremely complex. According to the press centre of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, the armed group of rebels, led by Field Commander Zainiddin, resumed a massive shelling of the Dashti-Yazgulem enlarged border post of the Khorog border-guarding detachment at 08.25 on Sunday after a brief nightly respite. The post is being shelled from three directions simultaneously.

As was already reported, Tajik rebels made their first attack on the post on April 8 with a view to seizing it. Four servicemen from among the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan were killed in the fighting. There were wounded as well.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan is expected to issue a statement on Sunday about the situation in the Pamirs and Panj sectors of the Tajik-Afghan border.

Fighting Continues 'Throughout Sunday'

LD0904143695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 9 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 9—Fighting between Russian border guards and Tajik militants on the Tajik-Afghan border in the Gorno Badakhshan region of Tajikistan continued throughout Sunday, having already taken the lives of five Russian soldiers and crippled seven more. Tajik opposition rebels led by field commander Zainiddin resumed the massive shelling of the Dashti-Yazgulem border post early on Sunday after a brief night respite. The post is being shelled from three directions simultaneously.

In the morning militants who call themselves "self-defence units" placed several posts along the highway linking Khorog and Yazgulem in an attempt to prevent the movement of Russian troops.

The Tajik Ministries of Defence and Security agreed to airlift troops to reinforce Russian border guards, but bad weather has so far prevented their departure.

At about noon today, Tajik militants based in Afghanistan shelled another Russian border post. Russian soldiers opened retaliatory fire to destroy the attackers. No casualties among Russian troops were reported.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border worsened dramatically on Friday after a Russian military convoy of about 200 troops came under heavy artillery fire near Kalaikhumb in the Gorno Badakhshan region. As a result, 14 soldiers were killed, five more died later from wounds, and 26 wounded.

Tajik president Emomali Rakhmonov held an emergency session of the government on Sunday to discuss the situation. The government described the situation as "extremely critical and requiring emergency efforts" to reach stabilisation on the Afghan-Tajik border.

The government sent appeals to the U.N. Secretary-General, the Heads of State of the CIS countries and the people of the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region in Tajikistan.

Lieutenant-General Anatoly Chechulin, Commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, told the meeting that the series of bandit actions against Russian border guards is the beginning of well- prepared large-scale actions of the armed opposition—the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan—aimed at seizing and asserting its power in Badakhshan, with its subsequent extension to the central part of the country.

Pamirs Could Become 'New Pocket of Tension'

LD0904165895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1516 GMT 9 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 9 TASS—The Pamir region of Tajikistan may become a new pocket of tension unless the explosive situation in the Kalaikhum and Yazguli sections of the Tajik-Afghan border, where fighting has been going on for three days running, is normalised, military sources in Dushanbe said.

The sources said that over 250 armed opposition militants, who left their winter base in the Pamir mountains on April 2, have infiltrated the Garm district seeking to recruit several thousand rebels to fight the central government.

At the same time, officials in the Tajik leadership believe that the opposition has bogged down in wishful thinking and that the number of its supporters in the Pamir region is at least several times smaller. However, they did not rule out the possibility that the social and political situation in the area may worsen if the opposition carries out acts of sabotage and terrorism.

The opposition sent a clear signal indicating the seriousness of its intentions on Friday when it fired at the Interior Ministry posts in the village of Khait in the Garm district. Law enforcement agencies are taking urgent steps to prevent destabilisation of the social and political situation in the Pamir region and other districts of the country.

The situation in the Khorog district remains also complex, but controllable, according to military sources. Dushanbe is taking preventive measures to crush the rebels.

Earlier today, militants who call themselves "self-defence units" placed several posts along the highway linking Khorog and Yazgulem in an attempt to prevent the movement of Russian troops.

The Tajik Ministries of Defence and Security agreed to airlift troops to reinforce Russian border guards, but bad weather has so far prevented their departure.

Meanwhile, fighting between Russian border guards and Tajik militants on the Tajik-Afghan border in the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan continues, having already taken the lives of five Russian soldiers and crippled seven more.

Tajik opposition rebels led by Field Commander Zainiddin resumed the massive shelling of the Dashti-Yazgulem border post early on Sunday after a brief night respite. The post was reported to be shelled from three directions simultaneously.

At about noon today, Tajik militants based in Afghanistan shelled another Russian border post. Russian soldiers opened retaliatory fire to destroy the attackers. No casualties among Russian troops were reported.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border worsened dramatically on Friday after a military convoy of about 200 Russian and Kazakh troops came under heavy artillery fire near Kalaikhumb in the Gorno- Badakhshan region. As a result, 14 soldiers were killed, five more died later from wounds, and 26 wounded.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov held an emergency session of the government on Sunday to discuss the situation. The government described the situation as "extremely critical and requiring emergency efforts" to reach stabilisation on the Afghan-Tajik border.

The government sent appeals to the U.N. secretary-general, the heads of state of the CIS countries and the people of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region in Tajikistan.

Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, told the meeting that the series of bandit actions against Russian border guards is the beginning of well-prepared large-scale actions of the armed opposition—the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan—aimed at seizing and asserting its power in Badakhshan, with its subsequent extension to the central part of the country.

Russian Troops in 'Heavy Fighting'

LD1004055395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0527 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 10 TASS—Fierce fighting continued on the Tajik-Afghan border over the past 24 hours, but the command of the Russian border troops in the Central Asian republic reported no losses among its men over the past day.

It said the situation was especially critical on the Khorog section of the border in the Pamir Mountains where Russian border guards were fighting for the second day the overwhelming forces of Tajik opposition militants near the stronghold of Dashti-Yazgul.

Late on Sunday reinforcements were dispatched to help the border guards and are now engaged in heavy fighting near the settlement of Kalot on the Khorog-Yazgul road.

The press centre of the border guards said the only road linking the administrative centre of Gorno-Badakhshan with Yazgul had been mined and exploded in several places. Bad weather does not allow to render air support to Russian border guards.

A spokesman of the command told TASS that the death toll among Russian and Kazakh border guards amounted to 24 people since April 7. Dozens were wounded.

TASS learned from informed sources that special envoy of UN secretary general Ramiro Piris Ballon, who is staying in Tajikistan, is leaving for the Afghan city of Talukan Monday where he is expected to meet the head of the opposition Movement for the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan, Said Abdullo Nuri.

Government Statement Condemns Attack

LD1004094795 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0536 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 7 April this year at the Kalai-Khumb sector of the border guard detachment, a border guard column moved along the border with the aim of guarding the Tajik-Afghan border. The appropriate Afghan border structures were informed about this and other acts of the border guards beforehand. At about 1200 local time the column was suddenly subject to mass shooting from Afghan territory and had to join battle with a detachment of Tajik opposition fighters.

As a result of the clash there were casualties among the border guards from the Kazakh contingent and Tajik military servicemen. The Tajik Government expresses genuine condolences to the relatives and friends of those who died. At the present time the situation is under control.

The Tajik Government resolutely condemns this bandit-like act against the border guards, which is yet another link in the chain of illegal aggressive actions by the armed Tajik opposition on the Tajik-Afghan border.

This provocation is evidence that despite the assurances of the leaders of the Tajik opposition about a peaceful settlement of the Tajik problem, armed formations of the opposition continue to commit acts with a specific aim—to disrupt the peaceful political process of the inter-Tajik settlement.

Moreover, the concentration of the reserves of armed opposition groups on the territory of Afghanistan near the border of the Republic of Tajikistan, the accumulation of weapons and the constant illegal crossings are evidence of preparations for a new spiral in the escalation of tension on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan makes a resolute protest to the official authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in regard to the excesses carried out by the fighters of the Tajik opposition from the territory of Afghanistan, which is still being used for armed sorties and illegal actions over the border.

The border guards, protecting and defending the Tajik-Afghan border, are implementing previously signed treaties between the states of the CIS on the joint protection of the CIS southern borders thus creating favorable conditions for the process of the inter-Tajik talks.

The Tajik Government states that any illegal actions on the Tajik-Afghan border will continue to be decisively prevented by all the forces and means at the troops' disposal. The organizers of provocative actions on the state border of the Republic of Tajikistan should not have any doubts about this. At the same time the whole

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

responsibility for the escalation of tension on the Tajik-Afghan border and its aftermath will fully and entirely lie on the leaders of the armed Tajik opposition and officials of the Islamic State of Afghanistan's border provinces who render them assistance and support.

Taking into account the signed accords on the border between the two neighboring states and making every possible effort to maintain peace and stability on the Tajik-Afghan border, the Tajik side draws the attention of the heads of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the necessity of taking appropriate measures to thoroughly investigate the aforementioned facts and punish the guilty.

The leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan, confirming its intentions to make all necessary efforts to continue the talks in order to reach national reconciliation in the country, proposes that the irreconcilable Tajik opposition reject armed actions and other hostile acts and join the path of a peaceful, political settlement to the conflict.

President Urges UNSC Talks on Border Attacks

LD1004080295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0713 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 10 Apr—Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov called on UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to urgently debate the situation in Afghanistan at a meeting of the UN Security Council [UNSC] in a special message he sent to him today. In his message, the Tajik head of state points to the escalation of armed aggression by the irreconcilable opposition against the sovereign state of Tajikistan and expresses his hope that the secretary general will personally attend to the issues involved in settling the inter-Tajik conflict.

The statement notes that the irreconcilable armed opposition has not abandoned its intentions to alter the constitutional structure existing in Tajikistan through force. Rakhmanov gives as confirmation of this the fact that "concentrated military operations against the Republic of Tajikistan have begun in a number of sectors of the state border with Afghanistan with the aim of conducting large-scale military operations to conquer the borders and take power, to begin with, in the republic's Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region." The Tajik president said that the country's government has information on the opposition's intentions to "create a bridgehead on the territory of the Pamir mountains by force of arms in order to further expand its zone of influence to the central areas and subsequently take power in Tajikistan."

The Tajik leadership states its determination to make every effort to resume the inter-Tajik negotiations. For the sake of peace, it yet again asks the opposition to refrain from using weapons and take the path of politics to settle the conflict, the statement says.

Rakhmanov Appeals to Yeltsin for Assistance

LD1004083995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0803 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 10 Apr—The Tajik Government is counting upon the authority of the Russian president to give assistance, including military assistance, to the republic to defend the southern frontiers of the CIS, following the recent events on the Tajik-Afghan border. President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan states this in a special message to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin today. President Rakhmanov believes that such assistance will serve to establish peace not only in Tajikistan but throughout the entire Central Asian region.

The document also expresses the hope that the Russian president, as chairman of the Council of CIS Heads of State, will help to brief the members of the Commonwealth and the world community on the current alarming events in Tajikistan.

The Tajik leadership informs the Russian president that for its part, it is exerting efforts to renew political dialogue with the opposition and is once again proposing to the irreconcilable Tajik opposition that it should reject armed actions and set out upon the path of peaceful, political settlement of the intra-Tajik conflict.

Commander Says Border 'Now Quiet'

LD1004110195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dushanbe, 10 Apr—It is now quiet in the area around the Dashti-Yazgulem border post where there have been clashes between border troops and Tajik opposition fighters since 8 April, with only a few breaks. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the situation at the border, Col. Gen. Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in Tajikistan, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that his subunits were not involved in the armed conflict, but were on full military alert in case an emergency situation developed. The joint peacekeeping forces will only act if a decision to do so is taken by the Council of CIS Heads of State participating in the treaty on collective security, he said. [passage omitted]

Russian Helicopters Attack Border Insurgents

LD1004105595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—As weather improved over Tajikistan Russian helicopter gunships delivered missile strikes Monday on Tajik

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Islamic militants who have been trying for two days to seize the Russian border post in Dashti-Yangul sett'e-ment in Gorno-Badakhshan.

"The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is currently completely controlled by Russian border guards in Tajikistan", the Russian Federal Border Guard Service told TASS.

It said that helicopters of the frontier troops and of the CIS peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan "rendered active fire support (to border guards) by delivering missile strikes on armed units of Islamists".

The raids were earlier impossible because of poor weather.

According to the service, 600 militants armed with small arms and grenade launchers began a large-scale offensive on the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan from Afghanistan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Armenia

Azerbaijani Army Units Fire on Border Position

NC0704135095 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijani Army units used large-caliber machine guns to fire on the defensive positions of Perdaper in Ijevan between 0925 and 1100 this morning. There were no casualties. The enemy stopped firing after the Armenian side took countermeasures, the Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service reported. We have received no new information on the border situation.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Press Service headquarters reported that the cease-fire is being observed on the Karabakh fronts.

Shelling of Border Settlements Continues

NC0804182695 Yerevan SNARK in English 1356 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 8 (SNARK)—For the second day, the settlements of Ijevan region of Armenia are being shelled from Azerbaijan territory. On April 7, defense positions of Kirants village were shelled by mortars and grenade dischargers.

No casualties were reported by the Armenian Defense Ministry. Armenian forces had to return the fire.

Incidents in other parts of the Armenian-Azeri border were not observed, said the Ministry spokesman to Snark.

NDU Rally Opposes New Constitution

NC0804183695 Yerevan SNARK in English 1456 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 8 (SNARK)—Constitution being imposed upon the Armenian people by authorities is nothing else but a way to confer the President with unlimited powers, stated the leaders of National Democratic Union [NDU] at a 10-thousand rally staged by them on April 7 in Yerevan. They called the people to say "no" to Constitution suggested by authorities at any price, even at a price of bloodshed. In the person of President, said orators, Armenian people shall see not the usurper of power, but a personality who symbolizes the moral image of nation and its unity, in the same way as do the British Queen or Dutch King [as received] .

Making a statement that democracy cannot be restored without unity of people in the atmosphere of fear and repressions, the NDU leaders announced that the Union is ready to assume the coordinator-of-masses role on the eve of parliamentary elections to take place on July 5, 1995.

Azerbaijan

Parliament Confirms Decree Extending State of Emergency

NC0704190395 Baku TURAN in English 1153 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 4) TURAN—Today the Parliament confirmed the Decree of the President of the republic on the extend of the term of State of emergency for two more months. The decree was supported by 29 votes "for" and 4 votes "against". "The state of emergency has been extended due to the events which took place on March 13-17," Rasul Guliyev said. He said that the state of emergency would not be extended in Ganja.

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov noted that most of the people who committed a crime on March 13-17 had not been detained yet. "There are hundreds of them," he said. He said that recently the criminals resisted the police, and that is why the state of emergency is necessary. The General Prosecutor Eldar Hasanov said that 131 sub machine guns, 3,00 cartridges and ammunition had been confiscated over the period of state of emergency. 70 criminals and 20 deserters had been arrested. Despite that 3,000 deserters and 1,660 criminals are still at large. According to him one of the reasons of such situation is unsatisfactory work of the law enforcement bodies.

The state of emergency was imposed on October 4 1994, after the attempt of coup in Ganja. Since then the state of emergency has been extended for the fourth time.

Parliament's Call for Crackdown on Opposition Viewed

MK0804055395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 4

[Arif Useynov report from Baku: "The Opposition Sustains Serious Losses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Milli Mejlis, in a resolution adopted a few days ago, called on all political parties and organizations to conduct their activities in accord with the constitution. Furthermore, the document gives a political and judicial assessment of activity by the organizers and executors of two unsuccessful coup attempts: in October of last year and in March of this year. Last fall, the authors of the resolution say, destructive forces joined ranks, including the People's Front, the Boz Gurd (Gray Wolves) Party, and the Civic Union. The latter was created in Moscow late last year and is headed by former republic leaders Ayaz Mutalibov and Suret Guseynov. After the illegal armed opposition, which was part of this alliance, was destroyed during the suppression of the October and March coups, the authorities, according to the resolution, received incontestable evidence pointing to the existence and active operation of a common opposition center which also includes mafia

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and corrupt structures, closely linked with the political circles which have tried to depose Geydar Aliyev.

Last week the Milli Mejlis stripped Iskender Gamidov, leader of the Azerbaijan Gray Wolves, of his immunity as a deputy and agreed to allow the General Prosecutor's Office to initiate criminal proceedings against him. Gamidov is being charged with involvement in killings and the misappropriation of $400,000, when he was internal affairs minister. The Milli Mejlis document stresses that Gamidov's involvement in preparing a coup d'etat has been confirmed. Furthermore, it has transpired that the majority of the [rebel] special-purpose police detachment [OPON] forces belonged to the Gray Wolves party and constituted a core in a diversified network of the illegal armed opposition. The republic Supreme Court acceded to the Ministry of Justice's demand that it suspend that party's activity and shut down its newspaper.

The Milli Mejlis demanded that the Justice and Information Ministries consider the question of further activity by parties, and their publications, which have been involved with destructive forces and directly or indirectly implicated in coup attempts.

Last week virtually none of the opposition papers were published. The public is getting its information from the parliamentary newspaper AZERBAIJAN, which, without hiding its delight, is writing about the triumph of Geydar Aliyev's political course.

APF Congress Postponed Due to State of Emergency

NC0804204695 Baku TURAN in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 8) TURAN—According to the press-centre of the Azerbaijan's Popular Front [APF], due to the state of emergency the date of the III Congress of the Azerbaijan's Popular Front is adjourned for one more week—April 21. Earlier the congress was adjourned from March 25 on April 14.

Despite the fact that the Speaker Rasul Guliyev stated that nobody would prevent conduction of the congress, in fact it is not so. The appeal of the APF to the Commandant's Office of Baku requesting to permit to hold the congress still remains without answer. This fact is assessed by the APF as an afore-thought step for the prevention the conduction of the congress. APF considers that such actions demonstrate the intention by the authorities to create in Azerbaijan the dictatorship regime.

SOCAR Chief Says Financing of Consortium Share Settled

NC0704190595 Baku TURAN in English 1153 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 4) TURAN—As a result of transferring 10 percent from the 20 percent share of SOCAR in the consortium for the development of oil fields "Azeri", "Chirag" and deep part of "Guneshly" field to the US company EXXON and to Turkish Petroleum, Azerbaijan will be paid out a bonus totalling $173.2 million, according to SOCAR [Azerbaijani National Oil Company] president Natig Aliyev.

He said that those companies would promote the financing of the rest part of SOCAR's share in the consortium. According to Natig Aliyev that promotion means that the authoritative oil companies will present guarantees to large banks, which will allocate credits for Azerbaijan for the financing the rest share of Azerbaijan. Thus, according to the President of SOCAR Azerbaijan has completely settled the financing of its share in the consortium.

Iran Reportedly Cut Out of Oil Deal

NC0804103495 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 8 April 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 8 (AFP)—Azerbaijan has canceled a deal allowing Iran's National Oil Company (NIOC) to take part in an international consortium to develop offshore fields in the Caspian Sea, a newspaper here said Saturday [8 April].

The daily Iran News, close to the government, accused the leaders of Azerbaijan of having "pocketed US dollars" from the consortium's Western companies to push the NIOC aside.

"Informed sources revealed that the consortium's member oil companies last month deposited huge sums in dollars into the accounts of some Azeri cabinet members and oil officials in Switzerland" to cut Iran out of the deal, Iran News charged.

The oil deal was signed in February with Azerbaijan's national company SOCAR, which held 20 percent of the consortium's shares.

SOCAR was due to sell the Iranian company 25 percent of its own stake—five percent of the consortium's overall shares—for 350 million dollars.

The agreement triggered strong opposition from the United States which is represented in the consortium by the company AMOCO.

The cancellation has not been announced officially but SOCAR said Monday it had transferred 50 percent of its shares to US company Exxon and Turkey's TPAO, with each firm receiving five percent of the overall shares.

The paper hinted that this "hostile gesture" could prompt Iran to stop backing Baku in its territorial conflict with Armenia, saying Azerbaijan "should realise that so long as it reneges on its promises, it should not expect commitments from others."

A total of nine billion dollars is due to be invested in the project to pump out four billion barrels of light crude from three offshore fields.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The newspaper recalled that Azerbaijan's move came shortly after Washington barred US companies from signing deals to develop Iran's oil fields, blocking a one billion dollar oil deal between Tehran and US company Conoco.

And it said Tehran could oppose the project on legal grounds by arguing that the exploitation of the Caspian Sea resources needs the approval of all countries with Caspian coastlines, which also include Iran, Russia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Saturday told reporters that the five countries bordering the sea would meet in late April to discuss a new status for the Caspian Sea. He did not mention the deal with Azerbaijan.

Iran Not 'Officially Informed' of Cancellation

NC0904085095 Paris AFP in English 0743 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 9 (AFP)—Iran has not been officially informed of Azerbaijan's decision to cut it out of an international consortium to develop offshore oil fields in the Caspian Sea, the oil ministry said Sunday.

A ministry official, quoted by the government daily Iran, said Baku had not informed Tehran of the cancellation of the oil deal between the two countries.

"The Iranian oil ministry will only adopt a position after it has been informed of Azerbaijan's decision," he added.

Under the deal signed February between the national oil companies of the two countries, Azerbaijan was to sell Iran 25 percent of its stake in the development project—five percent of the overall shares.

On Saturday the Iran News, close to the government, reported that the Azeri authorities had canceled the deal last Tuesday and condemned the "hostile gesture" by Baku.

The deal had triggered strong opposition from the United States which is represented in the consortium by the company AMOCO.

Azerbaijan said Monday it had transferred 50 percent of its shares to US company Exxon and Turkey's TPAO, with each firm receiving five percent of the overall shares.

The international consortium plans to invest nine billion dollars in the project to pump out four billion barrels of light crude from three offshore fields in the Caspian Sea off Azerbaijan.

Turkish Prime Minister To Visit 12 Apr

NC0804201295 Baku TURAN in English 0913 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 8) TURAN—On April 12 Turkey's Prime-Minister, Tansu Ciller, will pay one-day visit to Baku, the source from the Turkish Embassy in Baku told TURAN.

This is the first visit of Tansu Ciller to Azerbaijan. The Prime-Minister will be accompanied by approximately 200 entrepreneurs and 50 journalists.

As experts say, the purpose of Tansu Ciller's visit to Baku is to discuss the ways for settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, discussion of the issue concerning the oil pipeline, economic cooperation in other spheres and current relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan in light of information about participation of Turkish citizens and diplomats in March events in Baku.

"This is the visit of politeness, during which no agreements will be signed. The increase in Turkey's share in the oil contract by 5 per cent and participation of its citizens in the March events accelerated the terms of the visit", a high-ranking employee from the Presidential staff told TURAN. "The March events will not negatively affect our relations with such strategical partner like Turkey", the same source says.

Head of Kazakh Region Police Department Arrested

NC0704185895 Baku TURAN in English 1153 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 4) TURAN—While investigation the case on the attempt of the coup on March 13-17, 1995 it was found out that the Head and the other employees of the Police Department in Kazakh region had enough information on the intention of the Kazakh OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] to make a coup on March 13. But the responsible employees did not take any measures for the defence of the state factor and even helped the rebels, reads the statement issued by the Prosecutory Office of the republic.

A statement notes that the Head of the Police Department in Kazakh region Khalil Khalilov had at his disposal more than 250 employees, 225 sub-machine guns, 5 grenade-discharger cups, 250 pistols but he did not use them for the defence of the main objects of the region.

The Prosecutory Office reports that some employees of that Department agitated part of the population to join the Kazakh OPON, headed by Elchin Amiraslanov. Five employees of the police department of that region had joined the grouping of Elchin Amiraslanov. The information reads that the Head of the Police Department in Kazakh region the colonel Khalilov and 7 more employees of that Department had been arrested and they were brought to trial.

Georgia

Russian Troops' Tbilisi Headquarters Attacked

LD0904161695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 9 (Interfax)—Unknown persons attacked the premises of the headquarters of the Russian troops in Trans-Caucasus Group

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in Tbilisi today at 5:00 in the morning, head of the Russian troops' press center, Colonel Gennadiy Dolgachyov told Interfax.

He said the servicemen defending the headquarters had fired back. Dolgachyov said that, however, fire had been stopped soon because of the beginning of intensive traffic in the street.

He said nobody had been killed. "Insignificant damage" was caused to the headquarter's building.

Dolgachyov said the Alget Wolves organization had assumed the responsibility for the action. He added that several notes had been left on the scene of the incident saying the attack on the Russian headquarters was an act of "vengeance for Chechnya" and for signing the treaty on Russian military bases in Georgia.

The same source said Russia considered the action as a "hooligan provocation on the part of a bandit grouping irritated by the progress in relations between two friendly states and their armies."

Dolgachyov said the Russian troops' command was taking active measures for preventing such incidents in the future.

Government Condemns Attack on Russian Envoy's Residence

LD0904131295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The following is a statement from the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia.

At about 0330 this morning, unidentified criminals blew up the security guard's post outside the Tbilisi residence of the Russian Federation ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia. The explosion damaged the ambassador's house and nearby residential houses. It was only by a lucky coincidence that this terrorist act did not result in casualties.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia believes that this terrorist act directed against a diplomatic representation accredited in Georgia, regardless of who has masterminded or perpetrated it, was aimed at causing destabilization in our country and society and deterioration in relations with Russia and other foreign countries. It is not accidental that this act was carried out at a time when cooperation between Georgia and Russia is developing and important talks on the peaceful settlement of conflicts in Georgia are under way.

The republic's Cabinet of Ministers condemns this act of vandalism. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Security Service have been instructed to take decisive measures to identify and arrest the criminals.

Shevardnadze Orders 'Emergency' Protection Measures

LD0904144295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The following is Instruction No. 45 by the Georgian head of state on improving the protection of foreign missions accredited in the Republic of Georgia.

With the aim of improving the protection of foreign missions accredited in the Republic of Georgia, the duties of their protection are to be transferred to the government guard service of the Republic of Georgia. The government guard service of the Republic of Georgia, headed by Kutateladze, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Security Service, and the Tbilisi Mayor's Office, is to implement emergency measures to ensure and further improve the protection of missions accredited in the Republic of Georgia. Until 15 May 1995, the government guard service is to carry out the protection of missions accredited in the Republic of Georgia together with the administrative police directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Georgia.

[signed] Eduard Shevardnadze.

Bomb Blast Called 'Brazen Provocation'

LD0904170595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 9 (TASS)—Georgian ambassador to Russia Vazha Lordkipanidze denounced a Russian embassy bombing on Sunday, describing it as a "brazen provocation."

The ambassador said that the bombing "is aimed against the Georgian state and the improving relations between Russia and Georgia."

In his view, "certain forces are unhappy with the growing tendency towards better good-neighbourly relations between our countries and some are particularly alarmed by the fact that Russia and Georgia have announced their intention to share their strategic interests."

Lordkipanidze said in a statement released by the press service of the Georgian embassy today that the incident will not be left unheeded and unpunished. Georgian law enforcement agencies have launched an investigation.

Earlier today, the Georgian government denounced the bombing as an attempt to destabilise the situation in the country and complicate Georgia's relations with Russia.

Unidentified persons blew up a police post near the residence of the Russian ambassador in Tbilisi at about 4:00 on Sunday. The residence and nearby buildings were damaged. No casualties were reported.

The government issued a statement denouncing the perpetrators, saying that they had carried out their act at a time when Russia and Georgia are seeking to boost

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their cooperation and are engaged in talks aimed at ending the conflicts in the country.

The government ordered the ministries of the interior and security to take urgent measures to find and arrest the perpetrators.

Group Claims Responsibility for Attacks

LD0904211595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 9 April carries a report from Tbilisi by correspondent N. Kandiashvili on the attack on the residence of the Russian special envoy in Georgia and the headquarters of the Russian group of troops in the Transcaucasus.

Kandiashvili says: "A certain group calling itself The Algeti Wolves [Algetskiye volki] claimed responsibility for the attacks. It left several messages at the scene of the crime."

Major General Belchenko, deputy commander of the Russian group of troops in the Transcaucasus, and Sh. Kviraya, Georgian minister of internal affairs, are also asked to comment.

Maj. Gen. Belchenko says that it was just another provocation, while Minister Kviraya said that his ministry will take all necessary measures to prevent any further attacks.

Composition of Defense Ministry Collegium Confirmed

LD0804192995 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 95

["Edict" by Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze on confirmation of the composition of the Georgian Defense Ministry's Military Collegium; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following composition of the Georgian Defense Ministry's Military Collegium is to be confirmed:

1. Chairman of the Military Collegium:

—Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, defense minister;

2. Members of the Military Collegium:

—Major General Guram Nikolaishvili, first deputy defense [minister];

—Major General Nodar Tatarashvili, chief of the Defense Ministry's General Staff and first deputy defense minister;

—Major General Razhden Bitsadze, first deputy defense minister responsible for the rear front, construction, and troop billeting;

—Major General Jemal Chumburidze, first deputy defense minister and chief of the National Guard's Main Directorate;

—Lieutenant General Vano Gurgenidze, deputy defense minister responsible for armaments and chief of the Main Armaments Directorate;

—Major General Tamaz Dumbadze, deputy defense minister for emergency situations;

—Major General Gujar Qurashvili, deputy defense minister and chief military inspector;

—Major General Valeriy Chkheidze, chairman of the state border protection department and commander of border troops;

—Colonel Giorgiy Toradze, commander of the Interior Ministry's internal troops.

3. The decree of 21 June 1994 by the Georgian head of state on confirmation of the composition of the Georgian Defense Ministry's Military Collegium is to be amended accordingly.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze.

Trading of Privatization Vouchers Under Way

LD0804131595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1110 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, the distribution of privatization vouchers has begun in several districts in Georgia. Some 3,400 vouchers have already been distributed in Tbilisi alone.

Meanwhile, trading in vouchers has also started. The price fluctuates between eight and $18. As you know, the face value of the voucher is $30.

People who are buying vouchers today will earn a lot of money when the sale of property subject to privatization starts in July. Today's eight to $18 may seem better than tomorrow's property, but experts' advice is that you should keep your vouchers for your own well-being.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Estonia

Bill To Suspend State Property Transactions Submitted

WS1004081695 Tallinn BNS in English 1100 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 07, BNS—The Country People's Party and Farmers' Assembly faction in the Estonian parliament on Thursday submitted for consideration a draft law on suspending all transactions with state property.

The legislation stipulates that transactions be stopped until the new government finds out their economic expediency. In essence, this means that privatization and many bankruptcy proceedings will be suspended indefinitely.

The parliament referred the draft legislation to the Economics Commission.

Privatization Agency Director General Vaino Sarnet told BNS he didn't know the full content of the legislation as its text hadn't yet reached him.

He noted, however, that the bill is a signal for foreign economic circles: "Such a draft law being submitted is not the most propitious of signs and it may have not the best consequences."

"It depends, of course, on the purpose of the bill. If its aim is to suspend transactions for the one week remaining until the new government steps into office, it makes no sense; if (the suspension is to be in effect) until final conclusions about the expediency of the transactions are reached—which presupposes detailed concepts and consultations and will take a lot of time—then this is economic-politically a very dangerous path," Sarnet said.

"Several countries—Hungary, Lithuania and Slovakia—have already attempted to follow this course," he added. "Meanwhile, this is not consistent with the programmatic standpoints of the new government coalition."

This is a regrettable incident and it is to be hoped the parliament will not approve the bill, Sarnet said.

MP Andres Varik of the Country People's Party and Farmers' Assembly faction said in the covering letter to the bill that, since the Privatization Agency and bankruptcy administrators "have become especially busy now, on the eve of the installment of the new government, it is obviously necessary that the parliament should put a stop to a process that is endangering our economy and bring needed clarity into the privatization and bankruptcy policies."

As examples of transactions that jeopardize the state's interests, Varik named the planned privatization of the state-owned Kehra Paber and Silmet companies.

Enimex President Says Information on Plane 'Incorrect'

WS1004094395 Tallinn BNS in English 1746 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 08, BNS—AS Enimex, the Estonian company that owns the military transportation plane AN-72 seized in Pskov at the end of last month, accused the Russian counterintelligence service of spreading false information.

Vyacheslav Smirnov, head of the Pskov counterintelligence department, told the INTERFAX news agency on Thursday that his men foiled an attempt to take the plane illegally into Estonia. The pilot had neither proper customs documents nor a permit to cross the border, he said. It was found out that an Estonian aviation company had bought the aircraft from a military unit based in Russia's Smolensk "at an obviously reduced price," he claimed.

Anatoli Kopiyevsky, president of the Enimex company, told BNS the Russian officer's statement was incorrect. In his words, his firm bought the plane from the Russian state-owned Avioexport company.

"The plane was entered in the Russian civil aircraft register and carried all required documents," Kopiyevsky emphasized. He added that the aircraft was previously used by a "high-ranking Russian military commander" and that it was then indeed listed as military aircraft.

"As we bought a plane registered as civil aircraft, we didn't need permission from either the Russian or the Estonian defense ministry to buy it and bring it to Estonia," the Enimex head underscored.

Kopiyevsky claimed the plane was seized in Pskov because of "political maneuvers." The Russian officer's claim that the pilots tried to flee from the scene was also untrue, he added.

Representatives from the Russian customs, Avioexport and Enimex met Friday in Pskov. The meeting was attended by Russian Foreign Ministry officials and Estonian vice consul in Pskov, Aivar Tsarski.

"Things are going smoothly, just the customs papers are being adjusted," Kopiyevsky told BNS Friday.

The Enimex company was established in February 1992 and it is registered in Tallinn. Kopiyevsky wouldn't tell BNS why his firm bought the transportation plane and how much it cost.

Latvia

Ulmanis Decides To Attend VE Ceremony in London

WS1004093295 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Apr 07, BNS—BNS has been advised that Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis has decided that he will go to London May 6-7 to participate in the British commemoration of World War II victims.

Ulmanis will take part in commemoration events in Latvia on May 8, after returning from London.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Birkavs Addresses Saeima on Foreign Policy Trends

LD0704163195 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saeima is today debating the main trends in Latvian foreign policy up to the year 2005. Speaking at the Saeima session, Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs emphasized that Latvia's independence is still fragile. Therefore, entry into the European Union is essential for preserving statehood. Adopting the foreign policy concept is necessary so that the Latvian people can prepare to vote on entry into the European Union, and so that changes in the country's internal course will not change external directions. Speaking about Latvia's relations with Russia, Birkavs emphasized that Latvia is interested in maintaining friendly neighborly relations with it, but without submitting to diktat in any sphere. Latvia is interested in seeing a democratic, economically developed Russia next door. Therefore, we support Western aid to it.

First Quarter Budget Deficit Reaches 24.3 Million Lats

WS1004092995 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Apr 07, BNS—The national budget deficit for the first quarter of 1995 is 24.3 million lats. This deficit had been expected, according to the law on the budget, in July or August, the Treasury Department director Aivars Veiss said at a press conference Friday.

Budget revenues were 87.2 million lats, while expenditures were 111.5 [million] lats. The budget law allows revenue to stand at 94 million lats and expenditures to be 88 million lats.

The budget deficit, therefore, does not stand at the 23 million lats confirmed on March 31, but at 24.3 million lats.

The deficit has grown even more to be 27.8 million lats as of April 7, with expenditures exceeding revenues by 3 million lats this week.

The budget deficit has been covered by Bank of Latvia and commercial bank credits, as well as by state internal promissory notes.

Bank Official Deems Lat Fully Convertible

WS1004094195 Tallinn BNS in English 1746 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Apr 08, BNS—According to standards of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Latvian currency is a fully convertible one, Bank of Latvia's Vice President Ilmars Rimsevics told BNS.

Up to now, most of the Central and Eastern European countries, except Latvia, did not observe all IMF standards therefore their currencies could not be considered fully convertible in accordance with IMF paragraph VIII, said Rimsevics.

According to IMF standards, convertible currency features are: unlimited flow of currency payments/money as well as equality of all currencies in the internal market.

In addition, only the market must regulate the convertible currency exchange rate.

These IMF standards are fully observed in Latvia, but not in other post-socialistic European countries in which restrictions for the sum of currency the citizens are allowed to bring out of the country still exist. In turn, trade enterprises also are imposed limits on currency exchange, said Rimsevics.

Rimsevics explained that the Latvian lat is not included in the largest currency exchanges' quotation lists because of Latvian enterprises' insignificant trade volume with Western countries.

If the trade volume increases and Latvian enterprises want to receive lats and not dollars for their production, then Latvian currency will be included in the lists of currency exchanges.

Rimsevics considers that Latvian entrepreneurs who received payment for their products not in lats but in dollars were losers twice this year—when exchanging dollars against lats as well as with the falling of the dollar rate.

The Bank of Estonia does not want to exchange the Latvian lat because of the low trade volume between both the countries, but, as it is the internal affair of the Bank of Estonia, it does not influence the convertibility or prestige of the Latvian lat, said Rimsevics.

Kurdish Refugees Transferred to Olaine Prison Building

LD0704183095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 7 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga April 7 TASS—Latvian authorities on Friday ordered to transfer more than a hundred refugees, which had been held in a train near the border with Russia, to a prison building in the town of Olaine, 20 kilometres (13 miles) off the capital, Riga.

"At least, now they will be warm and have beds", police said.

The group of 104 refugees, including many women and children, has spent days shuttling by train between state borders of Latvia, Lithuania and Russia with no one wanting to accept them. For the past few days they had been living in two train cars at the Latvian small railway station of Korsava.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

According to Latvian authorities, the refugees will be stationed in Olaine until the issue is settled through negotiations with neighbour states. Latvia insists the migrants must be expelled from its territory.

In Geneva, Ron Redmond, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] qualified the transfer of the migrants as "a correct step" laying grounds for cooperation between Riga and UNHCR on the matter.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Latvian authorities have repeatedly tried to deport illegally to Russia a group of Kurds, who are citizens of third states.

On March 23, 104 Kurds arrived by train at the Nesterovo railway station of Russia's Kaliningrad Region. Russian competent bodies established that some of the Kurds had arrived in Latvia officially, whereas others came illegally from Belarus and Kazakhstan heading for Sweden and other West European countries, a ministry spokesman said.

All of them were picked up in various regions of Latvia. On March 22, Latvian border guards used force to put them on a train bound for the Russian city of Kaliningrad via Lithuania.

On March 23, Russia informed Latvia that it would not accept the migrants due to the lack of legal grounds, stressing that the problem should be settled through diplomatic channels.

However, later on Latvia repeated impudent attempts to deport the migrants to Russia through the border railway station of Pytalovo, Pskov Region.

The Russian Foreign Ministry informed the Latvian side that such activities contradicted bilateral agreements and international legal norms.

Lithuania

Belarusian Speaker Visits, Views NATO Expansion

WS1004101995 Vilnius ELTA in English 1921 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 731]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, April 7, ELTA—Belarusian Chairman of Supreme Council Myacheslaw Hryb said at news conference on Friday that Lithuania could and should be most reliable partner of Belarus in the spheres of political, economical and cultural cooperation.

Belarus, as other CIS states, rushed about for a long time searching for assistance beyond oceans but now it found that best partners were neighbours, he said.

Hryb headed the Belarusian official delegation on a two-day trip to Lithuania under the invitation of Seimas [parliament] Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas.

The guests met with Jursenas, members of Seimas Foreign Affairs committee, Seimas faction representatives. They visited AUDEJAS Ltd.—a joint stock company—and Belarusian Embassy in Vilnius.

President Algirdas Brazauskas and Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius received the delegation. Hryb said he was satisfied with the talks held with Lithuanian leaders.

He also noted that Belarus would not support desire of Lithuania and other Baltic States, as well as Visegrad States to join NATO. Hryb said that Belarus declared its neutrality.

Being a member of CIS does not mean that Belarus must take part in its military organization. Hryb reminded that, in Belarus, there are about 260 thousand troops of the former USSR, but this number should decrease gradually.

NATO's shift eastwards would mean that Belarus could find itself at the dangerous boundary between two confronting blocks. Belarus would not like that something similar were created as the former Warsaw Pact with Belarus as its frontier, Hryb said.

First Quarter Inflation Rate Reported

WS1004100595 Vilnius ELTA in English 1921 GMT 7 Apr 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 371]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, April 7, ELTA—Statistical department data show that inflation in Lithuania during last three months has reached 11.5 per cent and left behind that of corresponding time period of the last year (in 1994, it was 11.4 per cent).

Spot check data show that consumer price index in March 1995, if compared to that of February, made up 101.4 per cent. Thus, per month, the consumer and service prices grew up by 1.4 per cent.

Among them, food product prices rose by 1.4 percent (or 16.2 percent per three months), alcohol drinks and tobacco products by 0.8 percent (4.3 percent per 3 months), clothes and foot-wear by 2 percent (6.9 percent), expenses for dwelling, fuel and power by 1.6 percent (5.6 percent) and health services by 0.7 percent (3.6 percent).

Plan for Oil Drilling in Disputed Areas Protested

WS1004081495 Tallinn BNS in English 1100 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 06, BNS—Lithuania has presented a note to the Latvian ambassador in Vilnius expressing concern about Latvia's intentions to obtain oil in disputed areas in the Baltic Sea, a source in the Foreign Ministry told BNS.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

According to the note, Latvia, without notifying Lithuania, began talks with the American company AMOCO to prospect for oil in several disputed areas and also on Lithuania's continental shelf. The Lithuanian ministry pointed out that talks between Lithuania and Latvia on delimitation of sea borders are still underway, the source said.

The note reportedly said that Latvia's actions do not correspond to the principles of neighborly relations and can only be qualified as a violation of Lithuania's sovereign rights.

Lithuania demanded that Latvia stop its unlawful actions and also stressed that it would not recognize any Latvian agreements with third countries on using Lithuania's continental shelf to obtain oil.

According to unconfirmed reports, the Latvian government recently approved a draft agreement with AMOCO, which may be signed already next week.

Lithuania also urged Latvia to immediately resume border talks, in which countries would observe accepted norms of international law and principles of neighborly relations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.